

Anrita Bazar Patrika

BI-WEEKLY EDITION---PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

VOL XXXV,

CALCUTTA, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 1904.

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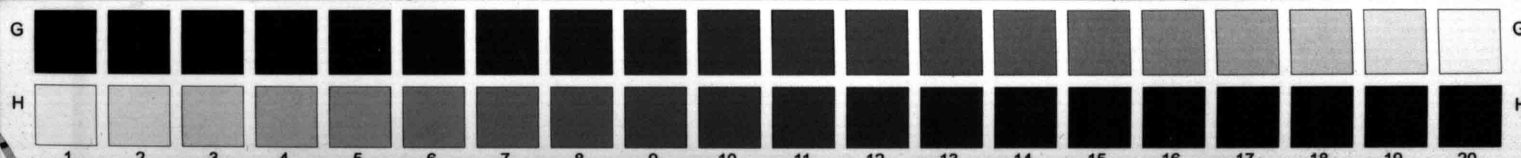
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NOTES ON THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

THE NAVAL BATTLES.

THE FORCES ENGAGED.

The later details enable us, says the Daily Graphic, at last to form an accurate idea of the main details of the recent naval battle. The position of the Russian fleet in Port Arthur had probably become untenable. Shells from the Japanese land batteries were no doubt beginning to drop in the narrow harbour, where the fleet lay huddled together. Falling from a great height, these projectiles had but to strike the deck of a warship to penetrate to its vitals. In these circumstances Admiral Skrydloff seems to have ordered the fleet to make a desperate dash for Vladivostok and safety.

Accordingly at dawn on Wednesday morning, 10th August, all the warships, except the armoured cruiser Bayan which was disabled, got under way. At nine o'clock they emerged from the harbour entrance and headed at full speed in a south-easterly direction. Meanwhile the Japanese cruisers and torpedo craft watching the entrance to Port Arthur had signalled the news by wireless telegraphy to the distant battle fleet, and attempted by laying mines, and probably by the threat of torpedo attack, to compel the enemy to manoeuvre, and thus delay its escape until Admiral Togo could come up with it. Soon after noon the Japanese Admiral's flag appeared upon the horizon, but he does not seem to have forced a fleet action immediately, being desirous, perhaps, of allowing the Russians to place as great a distance as possible between themselves and Port Arthur. At any rate, after forty minutes of desultory firing, he allowed Admiral Witgeft to suppose that the Russian fleet had escaped and it was not until 5 p.m., when little more than three hours' daylight remained, that the real battle began.

The ships engaged were as follows:—

BATTLESHIPS.

Russian.—Tsarevitch, Retvisan, Sevastopol, Poltava, Peresviet and Pobeda.
Japanese.—Mikasa, Shikishima, Asahi, Fuji and Yashima.

ARMoured CRUISERS.

Japanese.—Idzumo, Yakumo, Kasuga and Nishin.

PROTECTED CRUISERS.

Russian.—Askold, Novik, Diana and Pallada.

Japanese.—Kasagi Chitose, Takasago, Akitsushima, Matsushima, Itsukushima and Hashidate.

Russian.—And ten destroyers.

Japanese.—Also the old Chinese battleship Chin Yen and about thirty torpedo craft.

The Japanese approached in three divisions the first, or battle-line, consisting of the five battleships and the new armoured cruisers Kasuga and Nishin. The second line consisted of the armoured cruisers Yakumo and the deck-protected cruisers Chitose and Takasago, and the third of the armoured cruisers Idzumo, the venerable battleship Chin Yen, which was captured in the war with China, and the deck-protected cruisers, Akitsushima, Matsushima, Itsukushima, and Hashidate, nursing a flotilla of thirty torpedo-boats and destroyers.

The fleets do not seem to have approached nearer than 3,800 yards, the distance being probably determined by Admiral Togo, whose fleet enjoyed the advantage of a knot more speed than the Russians. The action continued until dark, with results which may be summarised as follows:—

BATTLESHIPS.

Tsarevitch (flagship), escaped to Kiaochow, seriously damaged and disabled, Admiral Witgeft and 210 men killed and 60 wounded. This vessel has since been disarmed.

Compelled to return to Port Arthur.—Retvisan, seriously injured; Pobeda, disarmed; Sevastopol, damaged, since severely injured by mine; Poltava, damaged and Peresviet, damaged.

PROTECTED CRUISERS.

Novik escaped, made for Vladivostok, was overtaken and destroyed off Saghalien.

Askold escaped to Woosung in battered and leaky condition. One officer and eleven men killed, fifty wounded. Has since been disarmed.

Pallada returned to Port Arthur, badly damaged.

Diana escaped to Saigon damaged, since disarmed.

DESTROYERS.

Retchitchel, captured by the Japanese at Chifu.

Boorni, wrecked and blown up.

Three at Kiaochow, since disarmed.

One (Grosboi) at Woosung, since disarmed.

A naval correspondent, "C. B." writes:—

"The definite mention of 3,800 yards, or 19 cables, as the range at which the Russian fleet was hit, points to that being the closest approach which the opposing squadrons made to each other. Once again the policy of our Admiralty in building big battleships is triumphantly vindicated, for it is only the large units which can carry the big guns capable of inflicting real damage from both main and secondary armaments. It is after such an action in which the light guns have been battered by shell fire that the opportunity of torpedo craft, even against vessels under way, is to be found. The vessels which establish superiority of gun fire are not nearly so likely to lose the protection of their quick-firing armament as those which carry fewer heavy guns, and it follows, therefore, once again that the condition for successful action on the part of torpedo craft is the superiority of the battleships in numbers and in individual strength."

The vessels of the Vladivostok Squadron originally consisted of the following:—

ARMoured CRUISERS.

Gromoboi, Russia and Rurik (Sunk in action.)

PROTECTED CRUISERS.

The last-named was recently piled up on the rocks near Vladivostok, and, although towed into harbour, has evidently not been repaired. The Novik which escaped from the Port Arthur squadron, was a 26-knot boat, of 8,200 tons and carrying no gun larger than 4.7.

THE RIVAL NAVIES.

The following table shows the strength of the rival navies previously to the sortie of Russian vessels from Port Arthur:—

BATTLESHIPS.

Japan.—Mikasa, Shikishima, Asahi, Fuji and Yashima.

ARMoured CRUISERS.

Japan.—Asama, Idzumo, Iwate, Tokiwa, Yakumo, Kasuga and Nishin.

There are also two old armoured ships, of use in the second line: four very fast protected cruisers, twelve weaker cruisers, nineteen destroyers, and sixty torpedo-boats.

BATTLESHIPS.

Russia.—Tsarevitch, Retvisan, Sevastopol, Poltava, Peresviet and Pobeda.

ARMoured CRUISERS.

Bayan, a Gromoboi, a Russia and a Rurik.

PROTECTED CRUISERS.

Askold, Diana and a Bogatyr, a Vladivostok Squadron.

There are also three or four unprotected cruisers, some gunboats, ten destroyers, and twelve torpedo-boats.

JAPANESE VESSELS DESTROYED.

BATTLESHIP.

b Hatsuse. Sunk by torpedo.

PROTECTED CRUISERS.

c Yoshino, also the unprotected cruiser b Miyako, and some torpedo craft.

b Blown up by mines. c Sunk by collision.

RUSSIAN VESSELS DESTROYED.

BATTLESHIP.

b Petropavlovsk.

PROTECTED CRUISERS.

g Boyarin, g.s. Variag and g.s. Novik, the torpedo gunboats s Korietz, the torpedo storeship b Yenisei, the torpedo-boat destroyers g Stereguschii, g Strashni, g Skori and g Vnushitelny, and a number of vessels of the Volunteer Transport Fleet.

b Blown up by mines.

g Injured by gun fire.

s Sunk to avoid capture.

THE BALTIC FLEET.

The battleships of the Baltic fleet are as follows: The first four have been recently completed. The Oslabya was built in 1898.

Borodino, Orel, Alexander III, Subaroff and Oslabya.

There are also three battleships of sixteen knots, the Navarin, Alexander II, and Sissoi Veliky, the youngest of which is ten years old.

THE SIEGE OF PORT ARTHUR.

Wednesday, Aug. 24.—The "Times" correspondent at Tokio states that all details of the progress of the attack on Port Arthur are still kept absolutely secret by the Japanese authorities.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 23 (Reuter).—According to a telegram from a Russian correspondent at Liao-yang, there were five desperate assaults on the Green Hills at Port Arthur on July 26, the Japanese returning each time with apparently inexhaustible reinforcements. At the final assault, however, the enemy broke badly. They left 7,000 killed and wounded on the field. The assault on the Green Hills was renewed on July 27. The assaults on July 28 and 29 on Wolf Hill were not followed up, as the Japanese were too severely shaken. The Russians evacuated the positions chiefly for strategic reasons. The assault on July 30 was made on a dark night in the hope of surprising the Russians. Sixty thousand Japanese were hurled against 13,000 but the Russians drove them back again and again by the bayonet. It was another Shipka Pass. The Russian 13th Regt. was forced from its position, but the 14th Regt. came up and with the bayonet again dislodged the victors, while they were still cheering on the heights. As near as can be ascertained this assault cost the enemy 10,000 men. The enemy installed 20 siege guns on Wolf Hill on Aug. 8, four of them 12-inch guns. They have not reached the Russian shore batteries, but have damaged the dry dock and the railway station. They pour into the town an average of 800 shells daily, and keep up the bombardment day and night.

RUSSIAN BATTLESHIP DISABLED.

Thursday, Aug. 25.—The following telegram, dated Tokio, Aug. 24 has been received at the Japanese Legation:—

According to the report from the commander of the Asashio, the Sevastopol, while bombarding Japanese position on land from the outside harbour on Aug. 23, struck mine and inclined considerably to starboard with bow submerged in water, and was towed in side.

Chefoo, Aug. 24 (Reuter).—A junk which left Liao-tie-shan on the night of the 21st, and has arrived here, reports that the Japanese have succeeded in occupying L-chan and another fort about half a mile to the south-west. They have also driven the Russians from the parade ground and have destroyed two forts at Chao-chan-ko within the eastern fortifications. The Japanese are now near Chao-chan-ko.

According to information of undoubted authenticity, the Japanese cruisers Nishin and Kasuga have bombarded and silenced the forts east of Golden Hill. These forts are probably the same as or very close to the forts at Tai-ping-tze and Chao-chan-ko mentioned yesterday and to-day as having been occupied by the Japanese.

ALLEGED SUPERSESSION OF GENERAL NOGI.

The "Times" correspondent at Berlin writes yesterday:—

Col. Gadke and the special correspondent of the Berlin "Lokalanzeiger" at Liao-yang agree in stating that General Nogi has been superseded by Marshal Yamagata in the command of the Japanese troops before Port Arthur. Other military critics, however, hesitate to accept this statement without further corroboration, and it is pointed out with considerable force that Admiral Kamimura's spell of ill-luck did not avail to shake the confidence of his superiors in his abilities. To this it may, perhaps, be objected that in the case of Admiral Kamimura there was far more scope for the operation of chance than there is in the conduct of the siege of Port Arthur. A more solid ground for doubting the report may be found in the advanced age of the Japanese Commander-in-Chief.

THE ARMIES IN MANCHURIA.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the "Matin" says that a private telegram has been received from Liao-yang to the effect that 80,000 Japanese, with 200 guns, are

moving in two columns from Ying-kau towards Hai-cheng and Neu-chwang. A third column is moving northward west of the railway.

Col. Gadke reports that the vanguard of General Kuroki's army is stationed on "the middle reaches of the Tai-tse River," while a Japanese detachment under Lieut.-Gen. Fushima has taken up a position west of the Liao River.

RUSSIAN SOLDIER.

A correspondent with the Russian forces gives an interesting picture of the Russian soldier which hardly accords with the popular impression. He is a lovable being, the great bearded "boy." Among the Chinese he is well-beloved to a remarkable degree, fond of the children, and one of the most delightful glimpses gained of him is as he sits surrounded by pig-tailed little ones, teaching them the lays of "Russland."

GENERAL KUROPATKIN.

The "Civil and Military Gazette" is of opinion that "the fact that Liao-yang has been evacuated by an army still unbroken, still unconquered, in the face of the appalling difficulties, stamps Kuropatkin once again as a leader of splendid abilities."

JAPAN'S WARSHIPS.

The announcement that Japan has placed an order with United States steel companies for the supply of 7,500 tons of the finest nickel steel plates shows not only that she is taking prompt advantage of the security of the North Pacific since the smashing up of the Vladivostok cruisers but also that she has advanced another important step towards building her own armoured warships. Evidently the great works which are being established at Kure for shipbuilding, plate rolling, gun-making and manufacture of munitions are now advanced enough to enable Japan to undertake the building of a armoured cruiser or even a battleship, although they may not yet be equal to turning out an armoured ship. But it will not be very long before this too is within their capacity, and then Japan will be free from the greatest danger she runs in time of war—her dependence on foreign yards for the armoured fighting ships of her navy.

WAR CASUALTIES.

"Chambers's Journal" has an interesting article on the comparative slaughter in ancient and modern battles. History seems to show that the loss of life tends to become steadily smaller, with every improvement in arms of precision. The bloodiest battles were those fought during the middle ages, when everyone on the beaten side who could not get away in time was killed. During the eighteenth and the early part of the nineteenth century the average of killed and wounded to the numbers engaged was 25 to 30 per cent. The most sanguinary battle of the eighteenth century was that at Zorndorf when 50,000 Russians were pitted against 30,000 Prussians under Frederick the Great. The losses on both sides aggregated nearly 40 per cent. A hundred thousand men were killed and wounded at the great battle of Leipzig in 1813; but as half a million men were engaged this only amounts to 20 per cent. There were some very fierce battles during the American Civil War and the Franco-German war, but the casualties never amounted to 30 per cent. of the combatants. In the South African war the most sanguinary fights gave 20 per cent. of casualties, but few of them more than 10 to 15 per cent. The Russo-Japanese war has so far shown even smaller results in the way of slaughter. Our most recent examples are, of course, the battles in the Far East, Kiuliencheng (on the Yalu River) and Kinchau (or Nanshan). Both were, beyond doubt, fiercely contested and productive of important results. Yet, although we read of "fearful hailstorms of bullets," "a veritable hell-fire," and "appalling slaughter," a cool and dispassionate examination of the real facts proves that the actual number of the combatants killed or disabled amounted—if the official accounts are to be credited—to no more than 5 or 6 per cent. in the former and 10 per cent. in the latter instance of the total numbers engaged. We must, however, wait until we receive the official Japanese account of the casualties round Liao-yang and Port Arthur.

A WEEK OF SILENCE.

For a whole week an almost unbroken silence has been preserved by the Japanese with regard to the operations following the occupation of Liao-yang, and indeed the accounts of that battle itself from the victorious army have been extremely meagre. Since the Russians escaped pell-mell north of the Tai-tse River all we have heard from Japanese sources is a vague report of vast acquisitions of stores and munitions at Liao-yang. This silence may be due either to the failure of the Japanese to envelope the retreating Russians—for the Japanese do not care to talk about their failures—or to the fact that they still have hopes of bringing on another big battle and do not wish their movements to be chronicled for the benefit of the enemy. Meanwhile it is clear that the Russian telegrams are so heavily censored that little reliance can be placed upon them. We were told in one message that the Russians were retreating slowly, contesting every inch of the way, but later messages showed that the retreat had been little short of a headlong flight, during which the Russians were constantly in imminent danger, and escaped only by the skin of their teeth. Beyond the engagement of Orloff's regiment at the Yen-tai mines there has been no definite account of fighting, but yesterday we were told that "the millet, to which the Russians are not accustomed, proved an insupportable ally to the Japanese, who owe thereto some of the principal Russian reverses." Further details of these reverses would doubtless make the position a good deal clearer, but for these we shall have to wait until the Japanese have once more withdrawn the "purdah." The message at present reads like an involuntary confession of heavy losses, the details of which will be left to the imagination, so far as the Russians are concerned. It now appears that both armies are exhausted with the efforts of the last three weeks, and there is a pause in the operations. What will happen in the immediate future depends to a large extent upon which force most quickly recovers its power of initiative. Everything seems to point to the conclusion that Kuropatkin will not fight at Mukden if

Correspondence.

ABOLITION OF COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I have read with considerable interest your articles on the above subject and sincerely believe that the Government will endeavour to profit by them. One main reason in support of the abolition is that it is supposed that the present system of examination encourages cramming and draws the youths away from the pursuits of the higher University Honour. But did the success at the competitive examination depend on cramming? I know from personal experience that many who crammed best for the University degrees and stood high up in the lists of University honours, failed to pass the competitive examination even after repeated attempts, simply because they had no opportunity of cramming, and also because they had not acquired the requisite general knowledge, and had not a strong hold on the English language. As you very rightly point out, there was nothing in the subjects fixed for the competitive examination except law which could be crammed. And after all, there was not much harm in cramming at least some portions of the law; nay, it is absolutely necessary to commit to memory many things in it. It cannot be urged seriously that for this very reason the examination has been abolished. It cannot be urged that the candidate for the service need not possess any qualifications in law. If it be argued that they could have a thorough knowledge of law without committing to memory even the barest definitions of things, why not then let them be examined "with" books? Let difficult questions be set but let them be answered with books. Then as to drawing men away from the higher pursuits of knowledge in the University perhaps this will show that the system now proposed would draw them away much faster than what was so far in vogue. It will be specially harmful for the youths of the backward districts for whom perhaps some leniency will be shown in making the selections. If a Behari youth could have a Deputy Magistrature by obtaining a "pass" degree, will he ever aspire for the Honours? The time is yet far off when there will be such a large number of "Honours" men amongst them that those going in for the "pass" course will realize it in their mind that they must obtain higher honours or they would be beaten. And again, as you have remarked, how many under-graduates did really appear at the competitive examinations? They were in fact those who were nominated by the Government and they seldom got any of the Deputy-Collectorships by their merit alone. In other words, they did not secure any of the few high places reserved for those who got them by pure competition. In saying this, I merely make a statement of fact showing that if any were drawn away from the University it was because they were allowed as a matter of favour to do so; and it was in the power of the Government to make it compulsory for all candidates to pass the B.A. examination before being allowed to appear at the service examination. And I do not admit that an under-graduate would not make quite as successful a Deputy Magistrate as the best of graduates.

And if the attainment of high University honor be held out as almost a sure passport for the Provincial Civil Service, it is then likely that very few would care to spend their life in other useful walks of life; e.g. Law and Medicine.

It is also a point worth discussion whether really the best scholar of the University with abundant knowledge of their text books would make the best Deputy Magistrates. If they do, then why should a "pass" course Behari in Uriya be appointed when scores of "honour" B.A.s and M.A.s could be had in Bengal? Thus, it cannot be argued that the object is to select the best men possible for the service;—and therefore it cannot be urged that the interests of the service—which by the way is maintained by the general body of tax-payers,—are very much furthered.

But the argument is that the interests of the service have not been considered along with diverse other interests of race, creed etc. But when the Government exercised the power to appoint annually a certain number of men without any examination at all, how were these interests not furthered? There were three doors open; (1) pure competition (2) nomination and examination at which 1-3 of the aggregate marks were to qualify and (3) pure nomination without any examination. Now, the third only will remain.

7-9-04.

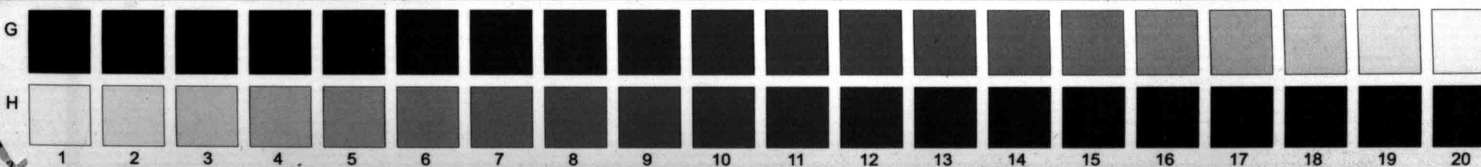
ALPHA.

Although the plague mortality in the United Provinces was only 634, there were no fewer than 36 districts and towns reporting deaths. Ghazipur district was worst with 166 deaths and Ballia the next with 112.

Abdul, the butcher, who murdered his wife on the 24th August last, in Rasta's Peit, Poona, and was committed to take his trial at the Sessions Court by Mr. Carvalh, the City Magistrate at Poona was placed before Mr. Lucas, the Sessions Judge, to-day (7th Sept.) Mr. S. C. Davar, the Public Prosecutor, appeared for the Crown. The accused declined to engage a pleader and make any defence, but the Judge called upon Mr. Pandurang Bachapi, who was present in Court, to defend accused. Accused, on being questioned by the Court about the motive for the murder, declined to answer the question, and said he was prepared to be hanged. The jury, after a short consultation, returned a unanimous verdict of guilty of murder, and accused was sentenced to be hanged.

—A German traveller claims to have discovered in the forest of Borneo a people who still wear the tail of our primitive ancestors. He does not write from hearsay; he has seen the tail. It belonged to a child about six years old, sprung from the tribe of Poenans. As nobody could speak the Poenan tongue the youngster could not be questioned; but there was his tail sure enough, not very long, but flexible, hairless, and about the thickness of one's little finger. The Poenans are reported to be very simple, honest folk, with a childlike system of barter. They deposit in public places the goods they wish to exchange, and a few days later they find there the equivalents they desire. Nobody dreams of stealing. This is almost as remarkable as the vestige of the ancestral tail.

Smith Steuierstrasse and Co., Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co., Abdul Bahaman and Abdul Kareem, Calcutta.



THE Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, SEPTEMBER 15, 1904.

IT IS ALL OUR FAULT.

WHEN we say that the country has no hope, it is taken for granted that we throw the blame upon its present rulers. Of course they are not as sympathetic and just to the people of India, as they ought to be; but when we say that the state of India is desperate, we deplore the apathy and selfishness of our own people more than that of those who govern the country. As a matter of fact, patriotism is a sentiment which has not as yet touched, much less taken root in, the hearts of our countrymen.

In the year 1779, an attempt was made to compromise the differences of England with the American colonies; and, for this purpose, three Commissioners were sent out to that part of the world, viz., the Earl of Carlisle, Mr. Eden, and Governor Johnstone. The Americans, on their part, also appointed three Commissioners, and one of them was General Reed. This patriotic American was sought to be bribed; he was offered ten thousand pounds, and any office in the gift of His Majesty George III. General Reed replied to this attempt to seduce him in these words:—

"I am not worth purchasing; but such as I am, the King of Great Britain is not rich enough to do it."

Now what is it that led the General to give this apparently insane reply? The condition of his country at that time was desperate; he himself was a poor man; why did he reject this magnificent offer which would have at once ensured to him everything that man values? Indeed with ten thousand pounds in his pocket, and a good office, he might have left America and lived elsewhere. Why did he then reject this tempting offer? It was because the patriotic fever had affected his mind.

A man may be in love with a woman, and a man may be in love with his country. The former will sacrifice everything for the woman, and the latter will also sacrifice everything for his country.

The other day we gave an account of how two Jap. spies met their death. When asked by the Russian General if they wanted anything, one of them replied smiling "Yes, a bath."

A man, afflicted by the real patriotic fever, is led to love his country better than wife, children, and life.

It is quite true that patriots are created when a country is engaged in war. As India has no war, nor is there the least chance of a war-feeling breaking out in the country, it cannot be blamed if it does not produce patriots like the Japs noticed above. But then other countries do produce patriots when they are in peace. These patriots have no opportunities of sacrificing their lives in the battle-field; but they give proofs of their love for the country by other means. What are these we shall shew by giving below the description of a scene. When Mr. Judge Parker was nominated the other day, as a candidate for the Presidency of the United States, on behalf of the Democracy, the following scene was enacted:—

"The New York delegates began a march round the hall, followed by a screaming mob of 500 others. In front was a huge banner with Judge Parker's picture on it, and scattered through the ranks were banners bearing inscriptions in praise of the candidate. The delegates embraced each other, danced about, and behaved like a herd of schoolboys. Then they began shouting for music, and the band struck up a lively air, which on demand from the delegates was changed into "See, the conquering hero comes." For twenty-seven minutes the demonstration continued, and then the Parkites became quiet and let the proceedings go on."

Now, if Mr. Parker, who was honoured, had danced with joy, when nominated, we might have understood the situation. But why did others act like mad men,—men in leading position, men who were elderly and therefore naturally disposed to be sober,—who had no personal interest in the matter?

The fact is the Americans, like every other people, except the Indians, take a most lively interest in the affairs of their country. So they always identify themselves in every public movement. But the Indian considers himself as not required to do anything except what is necessary for his own interest. If the country is threatened with ruinous measures, he will not move a finger to avert the danger. It is no business of his. We cannot conceive of any situation which can lead a number of Indians to dance and sing as the supporters of Parker did. No Indian will feel a personal interest in any public movement, however important it may be. An Indian "patriot" will however move heaven and earth, and perhaps act dishonorably, when necessary, to secure a title of honour, or a seat in the Legislative Council or a Fellowship in the University.

Here is another instance of patriotism which also we take from America. John Jacob Astor is the greatest land-lord in the world. He has thirty thousand tenants who pay him a million and half pounds every year. Yet when the American-Spanish war broke out, he offered his wealth and life to his country and fought like a common soldier. What wealthy man in India would dare a frown from a Magistrate in the interest of his country?

In short, the Indians have come to regard that they are aliens in India and that India is a country which belongs to those who rule it now; and they would not mind to interfere with any action of the Government, however obnoxious, if they personally were not interfered with. If the Jews have no feeling of patriotism in them, it is because they have no country of their own. The Indians, though they have a country of their own, however, feel as the Jews do.

Thus if they see water flowing uselessly from a hydrant in the street of Calcutta, no Indian will come to stop the water. It is no business of his. Knowing full well that the Government, constituted as it is, can never resist constitutional agitation of a persistent and extensive character; knowing full well that the vast majority of Englishmen will do nothing reasonable to the people of India if they can make their representation in a proper manner,—have the Indian public ever made any serious attempt to better their condition? They certainly some time enter protests against measures that are obnoxious, which however mean nothing particular. They hold a public meet-

ing, make speeches, adopt a memorial, and submit it to the Government. This done, they go to sleep.

This is the cheap and simple way in which the Indians have been trying to improve their condition, these two hundred years under British rule. The result is the raining down of obnoxious measures upon them by the rulers with a light heart, and the complaint of the Indians is that the rulers do not listen to them.

Let us repeat that, there is not much danger in this unsympathetic attitude of the rulers. The real danger, however, lies in the gross apathy and utter selfishness of the people. Up till now nothing has moved them seriously, except perhaps what affects them personally, and they will continue to go down lower and lower so long they do not realize their abject condition and the absolute necessity to better it.

INDICTMENT AGAINST CALCUTTA CORPORATION.

The Special Committee, appointed by the Corporation of Calcutta, to examine and review its own administration, was composed of the ablest and most experienced of the Commissioners. What gave special weight to the deliberations of the Committee was the presence of Mr. Bertram. The compliments paid to him by the "Indian Daily News" are fully his due. He is one of the busiest and most successful of Committee men. The European rate-payers, specially the commercial classes, whom he represents, are deeply indebted to him for his work in connection with the improvement of their markets and roads. Then again, a more independent Commissioner than he is not to be found among the whole body of his colleagues. It is no longer a secret that, if Mr. Greer was afraid of any Commissioner it was Mr. Bertram; and if the executive were put under some check in their recklessness under the new regime, it was mainly through his exertions.

Would it be believed that the Special Committee owes its existence principally to this honest and independent Englishman? Although he and other non-official Europeans supported the Mackenzie Act, yet, as an honest man, Mr. Bertram could not but acknowledge, after his five years' personal experience, that, under the present constitution of the Municipality, the executive and the Chairman have everything in their own way; that the Corporation has been reduced to a mere cypher; that the rate-payers' money has been wasted like water without any adequate return for the same; and that the time has come when a representation should be made to the Government to alter the constitution which has resulted in utter failure. Other independent Commissioners agreed in this view, and thus a Special Committee of six Commissioners, namely, Messrs. Bertram, Apar, Braundfield, Babus Nalin Beharee Sarkar, Radha Charan Pal and the Rev. Kali Charan Banerjee was appointed to submit a report on the working of the Corporation.

The report of the Committee is now before the public. It has been characterized as scathing and so forth. The real truth is the Committee have not disclosed one hundredth part of the actual state of affairs. It is an exaggeration to say that, there is scarcely a rate-payer in Calcutta, high or low, who does not daily curse the present arrangement. They cannot drive in the streets without endangering their lives and limbs. A little shower of rain is enough to make the roads more muddy than village paths. The gas light is as dim as our "chirags." The conservancy is abominable. You don't get water, filtered or unfiltered, when you need it most. On the other hand, if there is one day's delay in the payment of the Municipal bill, your carriages and other moveable articles will be attached under a warrant and then sold.

Not only has Municipal taxation reached its uttermost limits, but it has been realized during the last five years with Japanese vigour. One who has commenced to build a new house or repair an old one has to suffer in a way which is simply indescribable. Then, corruption among a certain class of employees has increased to an extent which is unexampled in the annals of the Municipal administration. In short, the life which an average citizen of Calcutta has to live under the present Municipality is one of suffering and misery all along the line; and what is more, nobody knows where to go to for the redress of his grievance.

It was impossible for the Committee to embody all the above grievances into their report. If they could do that, the public might have at once realized that the Committee's indictment is almost nothing compared with the real situation. Yet their report is more than sufficient to establish the fact that the Municipality under its present constitution has failed totally. This is the verdict of half a dozen picked Commissioners, some of whom have given fifteen years of their valuable time to work in connection with Municipal affairs of the town. Such a verdict is bound to command the support of other honest and independent Commissioners, and entitled to the serious attention of the Government.

It is hard to determine what ought to be the attitude of Mr. Allen, the Chairman, under the circumstances. As the head of the executive he is, no doubt, bound to protect his subordinates. But, as a lover of justice and fair play, he is equally bound to throw them over-board if they have neglected their duties. Then again, if his subordinates have their claims upon him, infinite times greater are the claims of the rate-payers. Indeed, he should hold the balance strictly even. We are sorry we cannot honestly say that he did it.

When Mr. Apar moved for the adoption of the Special Committee's report at the last meeting of the Corporation, Mr. Allen took it as if he himself with his staff of officers has been placed in the position of defence; and, in a long speech, he not only did his best to show that his subordinates had done their duties properly, but that the Committee was influenced by "political bias" and "unjudicial" spirit; and that their report was not worth anything. Mr. Allen knows very well, at least he ought to know that, there is no politics in Mr. Bertram, nor even in Babus Nalin Behari and Radha Charan. We expected a quite different attitude from Mr. Allen, whose heart, we know, is with the rate-payers, who, he knows, are fleeced mercilessly for the maintenance of the executive; and, which executive, instead of discharging their obligations to their bread-givers, do their utmost, of course with honorable exceptions, to make the lives of the latter as miserable as possible.

The motion of Mr. Apar for the adoption of the Special Committee's Report was seconded by Mr. Tremearne, another honest and independent Commissioner, in a most effective speech. He pointed out how the Municipal revenue has been steadily increasing during

the last ten years; how it has risen from 46 to 64 lakhs of Rupees; that, how, on the other hand, not only has the expenditure also gone up by leaps and bounds, but has risen in the same period from 47 to 66 lakhs, that is to say, exceeding the revenue by two lakhs! Of course it is natural and proper that the expenditure should increase along with the expansion of the revenue; but, are the rate-payers getting adequate return for their money? Here is Mr. Tremearne's reply to this question:—

"There is a very strong feeling that the public are not getting value for their money, (hear, hear) and a perusal of the review only strengthens and intensifies that feeling. Salaries have been advanced all round. Almost everybody is better paid. Yet I doubt if we have the same stamp of men as those who so faithfully served the Municipality in the past. (Applause). Will any one say that the successors of the late Sir Henry Harrison and Mr. James Kimber are an improvement on those gentlemen? Were there any unpleasant scandals when Mr. Robert Turnbull was our valued Secretary? (Cheers). I think that every one must agree that the roads are neglected, and in some places positively dangerous; and that the removal of the rubbish from the streets is dilatory, so that the efforts made to restrict the deposit of refuse in certain streets within prescribed hours is rendered abortive; and this being so, one of the most important duties of the Municipality is not properly attended to. Then, again, fault is found with the Engineering Department that estimates are prepared either with a want of foresight or supervision or a diplomacy, so that the Commissioners are committed to an expenditure largely in excess of that originally contemplated, because when a work has been put in hand and large sums expended on it, it must be completed even if the original estimate is largely exceeded. The Committee are constrained to say that with a Chairman possessing a knowledge of business methods, exercising proper supervision and control, much of what is complained of could be checked. These truths; but though the Bengal Civil Service contains many men of the very highest administrative ability it is hardly a good training ground for our Chairman, and the selection of late years has not been happy."

The ending of the report, as Mr. Tremearne just remarks, is evidently in its concluding sentence where the Committee recommend that "a representation should be made to the Government that the general body (the Corporation) should be restored to its position as the central controlling authority, and that the General Committee should be subordinated to it; and that the Chairman should cease to be a co-ordinate authority, the position of the head of the executive being made analogous to that of the Municipal Commissioners of Bombay." This means practically that, the old constitution of the Corporation, barring the proportion of the elected to the nominated members, should be restored to it.

The Committee reflected the opinion of the vast bulk of the rate-payers in the above little suggestion, which, we trust, will be carried by the whole body of the Commissioners when they meet on the 28th instant, for the purpose of adopting the report. Those Commissioners who fail to support this recommendation will only show that they have no sense or responsibility of their position. It is in the constitution of the Corporation that the real plague-spot lies. Unless this plague-spot is removed, the citizens of Calcutta will continue to be trodden down like so many worms as they are being done now by the executive. In a future issue, we shall show how a Hindu gentleman, with the help of Sir Richard Temple, secured the old grand constitution for the Municipality, and what a priceless boon we have lost by its violent demolition.

THE FIVE ELECTED SEATS IN THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

THE vast majority of the 28 Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta, who had resigned in a body, have not entered the Corporation again. Why? Because, as independent men possessing self-respect, they cannot do it without lowering themselves in their own estimation and that of the public. The situation is this. The representative Commissioners, as a Corporation, previously controlled the work of the General Committee and the Executive authorities, including the Chairman. Under the present arrangement, the Corporation has not only been reduced to a nonentity, but its principal function is to sanction the doings of the General Committee and the Executive without any criticism. In other words, the Corporation, which was the master before, is now in the position of a subordinate, and exists to carry out the deliberations of its General Committee and its servants, the executive officials. No independent gentleman, under such circumstances, can join the Corporation without humiliating himself.

The constitution of the new Calcutta University is a copy of the Calcutta Municipality. The Senate is in the position of the Corporation; the Syndicate that of the General Committee; and the Director of Public Instruction that of the Chairman. The Syndicate and the Chairman will have practically everything in their own way, and the business of the Senate will be to register the decrees of the first two authorities. In short, the Government has brought the University as much under its control as it has brought the Corporation. Both bodies are, to all intents and purposes, official.

Under the new Act five Fellows are however to be elected by the graduates of the University. The question is, would it be proper for those who opposed this change, to take advantage of this provision of the Government, and enter the University by means of election? We raise this question, because, already many eminent members of our society, and specially those who opposed the measure most energetically, have commenced canvassing for these five seats in the Senate.

The question may be viewed from two standpoints, those of interest and sentiment. Subudhee Roy was the King of Gour; and Hossein Khan, a Pathan, was a Superintendent of his Public Works. This was about 1490 A. D. Hossein Khan conspired against, and caused the deposition of Subudhee. This done, he offered Subudhee, his former master, the position that he himself enjoyed under him before, namely, the Superintendence of Public Works. In this offer, Hossein Khan—as a King, he called himself Hossein Shah—displayed not only generosity but also a little humour. The ex-King declined the offer. He left Bengal and died a beggar saint in Brindaban. Subudhee was guided by sentiment, and trampled his interest under foot. He could not bear to think of passing the life of a subordinate in a country which he had ruled.

The late Babu Nabo Gopal Mitra, a journalist of public spirit, entered the Calcutta Municipality as an elected Commissioner. As a representative of the rate-payers, he was, of course, under the old constitution, (now done away with) one of the masters of the employees of the Municipality. But he was poor; and a subordinate post having fallen vacant in the Municipality, he applied for and got it; and thus agreed to be a subordinate to the officials who were his subordinates before.

Babu Nabo Gopal sacrificed his sentiment to interest. Opinions must differ about the points whether the ex-King or the late Babu Nabo Gopal acted wisely.

We said that twenty-eight representative members of the Corporation had resigned in a body as a protest against the unjustifiable conduct of Sir A. Mackenzie. (The question subsequently was discussed whether those of them, who were in a position to do so, should rejoin the Municipality; and this, both on sentimental and substantial grounds.

The Calcutta Municipality was doing very well under the previous constitution. The system had received a trial of twenty-five years, and passed through the ordeal successfully. It was, therefore, an act of unjustifiable tyranny to deprive the rate-payers of the privilege that had been once granted to them after great deliberation—a privilege which is enjoyed by every civilized town in the world under the sun.

The privilege in question was only a permission to the rate-payers to administer the Municipal affairs of the town, with the money raised by themselves, through their own elected representatives. That was all the privilege, mind that! The representatives were afterwards expelled, not gently, but with a stigma attached to their character. They were told that they had been a bad lot and had lost all confidence &c., &c. That being the case, for the representatives to join the Corporation again after that, it was contended, would be humiliation indeed.

The natives of India, as a rule, are treated with contempt. If they show that they have no self-respect, they will be treated with greater contempt if possible. And to join an institution, from which one has been unjustly expelled with insult, is to betray all inexcusable want of self-respect.

The above-mentioned view is, however, based on sentimental ground. But considering the point from the stand-point of interest, the representatives, we think, should not also withdraw their resignation and enter the Corporation. The resignation of the representatives was a protest against the unjust conduct of the Government. To rejoin the Municipality now, would not only be to condone what the Government had done, but actually to accept it! We have hopes yet of recovering what we have lost. But if the representatives now pocket their protest, by entering the Corporation and agree to serve under the present arrangement, all hope of our regaining what we have lost will be gone for ever.

So, we suggested, the members who had resigned should not go back into the Municipality, on both grounds of sentiment and interest. It was, however, urged that we must be in the camp to be able to be thoroughly conversant with the present situation. It was urged that somebody should be in the Municipality to see what they were doing and expose the arbitrary doings of the authorities. This knowledge when acquired, it was contended, would be of immense service to enable us to gain our object. Indeed it was solely on this ground that two of the 28 Commissioners who had resigned, were permitted to serve under the present arrangement.

But, first of all, let us repeat, that by agreeing to serve under the present arrangement, they have, for ever, jeopardized the chance of recovering what we have lost. Already the Government has declared that the opposition has disappeared! So whatever knowledge we may acquire, as regards the inner working of the Municipality, will never compensate the other loss,—the neutralizing of the effect of the national and united protest against the vandalism.

These Commissioners were permitted to join the vessel of the Municipality, because, it was rushing on to certain destruction. We are told that they have done much to save it. Well, if they have saved the ship, the ship is not yet ours; it is theirs. What do we gain by saving a ship which was ours, but was taken away from us, and run on by others having a faint interest in the institution? By saving the ship we, on the other hand, for ever lose the prospect of getting it back.

The immediate question before us is, however, whether we should enter the University by election or not. Every one knows that one of the reasons which led to the immense unpopularity of Lord Curzon was his University measure. Every educated man opposed it; and it was carried through in the Council by the Government in spite of universal protest. After raising such a hue and cry, only a few months ago, to canvass now for the five seats, is a spectacle which is not only not edifying but very much humiliating and stultifying.

Well, on sentimental ground the proposal of entering the University cannot be supported. But are our interests likely to be served by going into the University? Many will not sacrifice self-respect for the whole world; but that is perhaps also a little sentimental. However, it is excusable, if not justifiable, to crush self-respect if by that you can serve your true interests. But surely you must not do it if you gain nothing by it. Will the elected five have any chance of being useful in an institution which is under the control of the officials? Will they not, on the other hand, prove that their agitation against the University Bill was fictitious and that they are quite satisfied with the present arrangement?

The Thibet expedition, after having reached Lhasa, found itself in the position of a serpent, which had caught a mole mistaking it for a mouse. The Dalai Lama had fled into Mongolia and there was none with whom Captain Younghusband could open negotiation. The expedition was thus in a fix. It could neither come back nor could it remain there long; for, it was not only a costly but risky affair to detain the army in Thibet the whole of the winter, during which time nobody knew what might turn up. The dirty condition of the town, again, was a source of constant anxiety and alarm, as it might lead to an outbreak of some deadly disease among the army. The expedition was thus in a great hurry to return home; and, at last, it has been able to wriggle out of the almost inextricable position of difficulty it had created for itself. But what is the net result of this spilling of innocent blood and the expenditure of poor India's money? It is

only Moses's spectacle! The Vicar's son, Moses, in the Vicar of Wakefield, exchanged a fine horse for a pair of gilt spectacles, with which he came back home in triumph. The expedition has already cost more than fifty-four lakhs of rupees, and in return, it has secured a voluminous scroll, containing the new treaty, the terms of which, we fear, will make the authors of the business a laughing-stock all over the world.

The speech of Captain Younghusband, contains the gist of this precious document. First of all, the suzerainty or the Chinese Government over Thibet has been re-affirmed by the Captain. We think, to go so far as Thibet to do this service to China, was dissipation of energy. Yet, the Government of India the other day publicly denied this claim which China had advanced in regard to Thibet. As a matter of fact, the Government justified its advance upon Lhasa on the sole ground that the Chinese suzerainty was a "sham" and a "farce." And this "sham" and "farce," we find, have been acknowledged, as a reality, by the accredited agent of the Government! The only other term of the treaty is that trade relations between India and Thibet, made by the Amban in 1890, should be re-established. Of course, the Thibetans readily agreed to the arrangement for it meant nothing, as, practically, there is very little trade between the two countries, for the simple reason that the people of Thibet have no articles of their own to sell to foreigners, and they are too poor, to buy foreign-made goods.

The newly-created Thibetan Regent, we are told, smiled as he put his signature to the treaty. And why should he not? For, all that the Thibetans were asked to do, after all this expenditure of powder and treasure, was to acknowledge China as their suzerain and to be in friendly terms with the English! The expedition thus practically fought the battle of China at India's expense; for, as a matter of fact, the Chinese Government had only a nominal control over Thibetan affairs. But, what of the indemnity? Colonel Younghusband was very particular about it when he issued his proclamation to the effect that, he would rigorously realize to the effect that, he would rigorously realize the indemnity at any cost, and that the more the Thibetan officials delayed in entering into negotiation, the more heavily would they be fined. The Thibetans, on the other hand, refused to pay any indemnity, and, it seems, they have scored on this point.

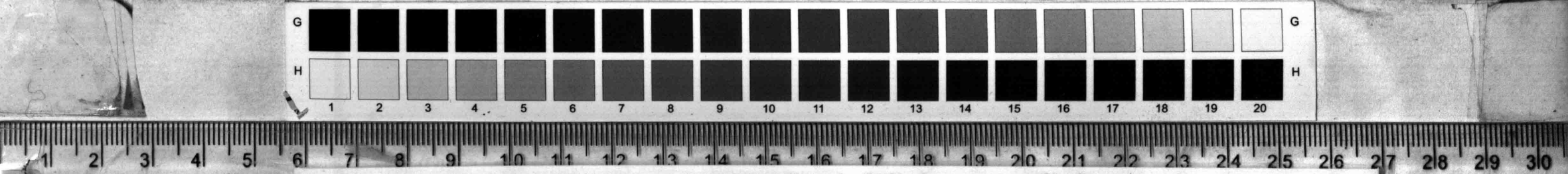
The expedition, we are told, will commence its return in about a week. But what if the Thibetans burn the scroll as soon as the troops have left their territory? Would another expedition be sent back to punish them? Then, there is another contingency, the Grand Lama, it is suspected, has gone to China where he has great influence over the Empress Dowager. Now it is not at all improbable that he may raise a little army from among the Mongolian tribes, invade Lhasa, drive the present provisional Government with whom the peace has been established, and ignore the treaty altogether. What would the Government do under such a circumstance? That such contingencies are possible nobody can deny. From this point of view, the problem has yet to be solved, and the situation is not yet without its perils.

MR. PINHEY, Collector of Malabar, is again to the fore, thanks to his vigorous administration. His latest feat in this direction is the trial of strength with a student, of the Breunien College, a minor, and the redoubtable Collector has come worst out of the fight. One O. C. Kunhiram, the juvenile accused, is a stable license holder in the Cannanore Cantonment. He and the Municipal Chairman, Mr. Winckler, had a serious difference as to what constituted an offence under sec. 221 of the Madras Municipal Act. The stable refuse was heaped by the occupiers of the stable in an open receptacle in a corner of the premises bordering on the public road in order to enable the conservancy staff of the Municipality to remove it. But the Chairman Mr. Winckler, refused to do the service without an extra fee. The guardian of the minor demurred to the payment of any fee and contended that the Municipality was bound in law to remove the stable refuse which had been declared to be offensive matter by the Madras High Court. The Chairman had recourse to law to teach the boy a lesson and started three separate prosecutions successively for the purpose. The Town Sub-Magistrate, who tried the cases, however gave his verdict in favour of Kunhiram. Crest-fallen, Mr. Winckler sought the assistance of Mr. Pinhey, who was all agreeable. He found no difficulty in inducing the Government to move against the acquittal of the student. The appeal came on for hearing before Mr. Justice Boddam and Mr. Justice Sankaran Nair. The accused in his defence stated that the High Court had declared stable refuse to be an offensive matter, in I. L. R. 23, Madras 164, and that he had himself, in the absence of a Municipal dust bin, provided a receptacle by the side of the road, for the storage of such refuse, which the Municipal Council was bound to remove free of charge. Their Lordships agreeing with the view of the Sub-Magistrate confirmed the acquittal, and dismissed the appeal.

We shall show in a future issue how the abolition of the competitive examination for the Provincial Service will not only open the door to jobbery but make the position of the Collectors and Commissioners, who are proposed to be entrusted with the charge of nominating non-official candidates, intolerable. In the meantime, as we suspected, we find that the guardians of mediocre graduates, who have access to high quarters, have already commenced their operations. This is what an esteemed and well informed friend writes to us:—

"I have been reading carefully several articles on the abolition of competitive examination for the Provincial Civil Service, and the only idea I can give is that the Government should go back to the previous system. This, however, they are in no hurry to do, and what suggestion will obviate the necessary evils attending nominations and consequent favouritism I cannot conceive. I already know that two Rai Bahadurs are canvassing Commissioners of Divisions. An official in high place may be acting quite honestly, but when only toadies and 'ap-to-wastes' approach him, honest folk who do not care to demean themselves will have no chance."

Indeed, how it will be possible for a Commissioner and four or five Collectors to make two best selections out of four or five dozen graduates, brought together in a room, from



four or five districts, is more than we can imagine. Good horses or dogs can be marked out of their fellows by certain signs in their teeth, tails or legs; but, how to distinguish a good from a bad graduate, when, say, one is an M. A. in mathematics and another is an M. A. in literature? The competitive system did this work for the authorities, without putting them into any trouble, and saved the Government from the charge of jobbery, and therefore, we fancy, it has been abolished!

INDIA was at one time the richest country in the world. It was considered so even during the days of Milton. According to an illustrated English paper, the richest street in the world is one of Delhi where the jewellers dwell. That is the only evidence we have of the wealth of India in days of yore. In the last Delhi Durbar number of this paper, a representation of this street is given. We are told that a garland of pearls worth 15,000 rupees is a play-thing with one poorest of these jewellers. As nobody knows what each jeweller in that street is actually worth, it is mere guess-work to say that the street, in which they reside, is the wealthiest in the world. But there is a street in the world where the wealthiest men of the world do reside, and the amount of their wealth is accurately known. This is an Avenue in New York, where about ninety wealthiest men in the world live. They have each of them his palatial buildings, and each his countless hordes. Money-making is now the principal occupation in the West. Nothing else is understood and realized there. That being the case, these ninety men must be the happiest in the world. Unfortunately, however, that is not it. A millionaire among the poor, may feel some satisfaction at the thought that he is immensely wealthier than they; but a wealthy man, among men equally wealthy, can not at all feel in that way. On the other hand, he finds many sources of misery for himself. If he comes to know that his neighbour has a million more than he has, he is consumed with envy. He is always surrounded by hungry vultures, and can trust none. If he is the prey of all, he is also at war with the world. Having money to satisfy all desires, he gradually loses every one of them, and his life ultimately becomes burdensome to him. And when he dies, he lives as an earth-bound ghost, unable to move from his hordes. It is said that this Avenue in New York, though full of the noblest palaces in the world, is yet the abode of evil spirits which prowl after dusk, so that honest men dare not pass through it. This is the value of wealth to which the westerners are selling their souls every day. One of the honestest papers in England is the "New Age." He has in every issue quotations from the utterances of a noble-hearted man. The following is from Dr. Pulsford, in its issue of the 18th August:

"The world has present honours and rewards for those who sympathize with its selfish and material aims. Specially men of blood and fire, who are called patriotic and great generals, because they gratify the self-love or their own countrymen by despising and killing the people of other countries; these are honoured and paid in the ratio of the amount of the destruction which they leave behind them. The nations, as nations, are not yet above the savage state. And the most savage nations in the world are those called Christian."

India, once the richest country in the world, is now the poorest, and this is due to the passion for wealth that dominates the West, which has drained this country of all its valuables; yet, as stated above, the ninety wealthiest men in the world are also perhaps the most miserable of all human beings.

D. VENKOBABAO, Head Accountant of Narmada Taluk, who has been dismissed after 21 years' service by Mr. Clegg, Collector of Narmada, and whose case has already been noticed in these columns, had submitted a petition to the Madras Board of Revenue for his resumption of his post, and a copy of the petition has been sent to us. The reader will remember that the charge against the dismissed Accountant was that, he "wrote or caused to be written an article in the 'Hindu' newspaper of the 4th April 1904." We have gone through the article which is appended to the petition. Now, considering all circumstances, we cannot conceive of a greater scandal than the dismissal of this poor subordinate official. Even if he had really inspired the article he could not be blamed; for, the object of the writer was not to vilify any body but to do a public service by drawing the attention of the authorities to a source of annoyance and mischief which was caused by the dishonesty of the Taluk Offices in the matter of the loan transactions. There was, however, not a little of evidence to connect the Head Accountant in any way with the article in question. This the Collector has been obliged to admit. All the same he dismissed the official, though he had absolutely no ground to justify his action; and what is more, the Board has confirmed it, and disposed of the Head Accountant's petition in the usual stereotyped way, namely, that "the Board declines to interfere with the order of dismissal passed against the appellant."

THE above is a typical case to show how a gross wrong is not unfrequently done here by one responsible authority and how it is supported by his official superiors. The method is exactly like what prevailed in the indigo factories of Bengal in the sixties and to which we referred in our last. Manik Shaiik, an indigo ryot of Krishnuggur, described before the Indigo Commissioner, how it was impossible for ryots to obtain justice from the planters. If the Dewan of the factory oppressed them they went up to his superior, the Chota Sahib, for the redress of their grievance. The Chota Sahib, however, either confirmed the proceedings of the Dewan or sent back the aggrieved to the latter for righting their wrongs! And if they submitted their case to the Burra Sahib, he would, in the same manner, either confirm the doings of the Chota Sahib or direct them to go to the latter. The Head Accountant, dismissed by the Collector, sought the protection of the members of the Board. The latter "declined to interfere," and the petitioner has now to lay his appeal before the Governor in Council, who, in his turn, will no doubt also "decline to interfere." The Indigo Commission severely condemned the method by which all justice was denied to the poor and oppressed ryots. There is, however, none to condemn the same method of administering justice by the executive authorities in this country; for they all, from the Collector to the Secretary of State, belong to one undivided family.

Scraps

A correspondent from Malabar informs us that a strong rumour prevails there that Mr. Pinhey, Collector and District Magistrate, will go on furlough in or about November next. Mr. Pinhey's administration, according to our correspondent, has been a complete failure and, as such, his departure from Malabar, will be welcomed by the people.

We have been presented with a small piece of cloth prepared under the superintendence of Babu Jadu Nath Majoomdar, Jailor of the Barsal jail. It is made of both cotton and plantain fibre, the latter forming the weft. The fibre is extracted from a plantain tree by striking its bark on a piece of wood by a mallet. The old trees yield fibre of superior quality than the young ones. The fibre need not be kept in the sun to dry. An honest labourer, we are told, can extract 12 inch of the fibre each day. The cloth made of it is little coarser than the silk, but it stands washing. We hope to publish further particulars about this new industry.

The reader of the "Patrika" may remember the circumstances under which Nagina Bibi of Charabari (Khulna District) was sentenced to transportation for life. She had a quarrel with her mother and shortly after cut her baby five days old with a fish-knife. In due course she was put on her trial. The Civil Surgeon in his deposition stated that the woman had committed the bloody deed, when in a state of insanity. She was sentenced to transportation by the Sessions Judge and her appeal to the High Court met with no better result. We now hear that His Honor, after going through the records of the case, has commuted the original sentence to five years' imprisonment.

So at last the Treaty has been signed at Lhasa. A full description of the scene is published elsewhere. It has been sealed with signs of (1) the Regent (2) the four shapes (pronounced Shalpees) or Cabinet Ministers, (3) the heads of the three principal monasteries in Tibet, (4) the National Council, and (5) the absent Dalai Lama. It requires ratification by both the British Government in London and by the Chinese Government in Peking. So Colonel Younghusband has been able to achieve the greatest feat! We are told that he has been able to convince the Tibetans of British power to enforce the observance of treaties; he has shown them that even the sacred city is not beyond the reach of the British army, and that it is vain to look for help from elsewhere. Yes, to convince an ill-armed, non-military, secluded nation of the superiority of British power a huge sum of money has been wasted, every piece of which will have to be borne by the starving rate-payers of the poorest country in the world!

The Sessions Judge of Bellary has passed judgment in the case known as the Bonnikal murder case after a prolonged trial. There were eleven accused and all of them have been convicted. Let us summarize the sentences passed upon them: (a) Prisoners Nos. 1, 2 and 6 sentenced to death; (b) Prisoners Nos. 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 sentenced to transportation for life; and (c) Prisoner No. 11 sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment. The Sessions Judge of Allahabad has perhaps excelled the feat of the Bellary Judge. In a murder case, he has sentenced eight accused to suffer the extreme penalty of law. The action of the Bellary and the Allahabad Judges may be in accordance with the provisions of the law, but surely the spectacle of a body of God's creatures being hanged for the murder of one can not but be shocking to ordinary humanity. In the above cases one man must have given the finishing stroke to the deceased, but the Judges failing to discover the party have sent a number of men to the gallows, believing that he must be among those condemned to death.

At the Madras High Court the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Subramania Iyer decided a case which dealt with the rights of ryots holding lands under government irrigation works. In this suit, the plaintiffs asked for a mandatory injunction directing the defendant (the Secretary of State) to block up a calingula or bywash in a certain channel known as the Korkai channel. The District Munsiff (of Tinnevely) dismissed the suit and the District Judge affirmed the Munsiff's decree. The calingula was constructed by the Government in 1882. It was put up for the purpose of reducing the flow of water into the Korkai tank through the Korkai channel. The necessary effect of the calingula would have been to cause the water diverted from the channel to flood the plaintiffs' lands. To obviate this certain land was acquired by Government in 1882 and a small drainage channel formed to carry off the surplus water. The plaintiffs said that the drainage channel was not sufficient to carry off the water, and the water which flowed over the calingula stagnated in their lands and made them unfit for cultivation. The written statement did not allege that the water was now in fact carried off by the drainage channel. It alleged that, before 1895, the level of the plaintiffs' lands was such that water escaping through the calingula could pass off freely without causing material damage to the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs sued for mandatory injunction; but the Government urged that if there was any damage, it was the plaintiffs' business to try and obviate it, and not that of the Government to restrict their efforts for individual benefit. Though the two lower courts dismissed the claim of the plaintiffs, but the Judges of the High Court upheld it, deciding against the Government.

Advices from Tibet show that the move of the Tibet Mission towards India cannot commence earlier than the 20th proximo.

The election of five fellows of the Bombay University, by the graduates of the University, was held on Friday at the Sir Cowasji Jehangir Hall. It was a contested one and a very large number of votes were recorded. Mr. Fardunji M. Dastur, Registrar, acted as scrutineer. Eight candidates were nominated for election. The result of the election has not been declared as yet.

The Committee, appointed to consider the revision of the General Rules for the Working of Railways, assembled at Simla on Monday. There were present Messrs. J. Willocks, President; C. D. D. Wilson, Secretary; R. W. Egerton, H. M. Cardew, F. R. Tebbes, S. T. Dalton, C. H. R. Crommelin, and G. Huddleston, members. Captain Hepper, R. E., and Messrs. Scovell, Stokes and Ross, are additional members for interlocking.

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

[From our own Correspondent.]

London, Aug. 26.

THE DANGER IN TIBET.

Alarm at the position of the British troops in Tibet is being expressed by Major-General Bengough, who has seen service in the Crimea, Zululand, and Burma. He has no desire, he writes to the "Morning Post," to appear in the character of an alarmist, but to be safe in the future he thinks that it is advisable to look things straight in the fact in the present. He considers that the situation of Colonel Younghusband is a little disquieting since it looks as though he had fallen into a trap—such a trap as oriental cunning, backed possibly by Russian astuteness, is quite capable of planning. The refusal to grant supplies to the force at Lhasa in the first instance and the subsequent change of tone when we assumed a more determined attitude, the pithy excuses put forward for not signing the treaty at once while not repudiating it or dissenting from its justice, all these points Major-General Bengough considers are indicative of an intention to detain the troops in Lhasa until the snows make their return to India impossible. "Then," he adds, "the destruction or removal of supplies from the neighbourhood of Lhasa would reduce our force to starvation, and Lhasa might prove to us what Moscow proved to the French in 1812." The Indian authorities, he presumes, have already given these possibilities their due consideration, but he remarks, "now that Parliament is prorogued, and question time is for the moment no more the public would, I think, be glad to know that the little army that has so successfully accomplished its task has the means of retiring, or of remaining where it is for the winter. For either purpose a considerable reinforcement of men, transport, and stores at Gyantse seems to be indicated." Meanwhile it may be added, that at the British Association meetings Mr. Douglas R. Hildfield made the playful suggestion that the real cause of the expedition lay in the fact that Colonel Younghusband is a Gold Medalist of the Royal Geographical Society, and that the Government desired to aid geographical science by sending the Gold Medalist on tour of geographical discovery!

CLOSED BY BENGAL COMPETITION. Indian weaving has been killed by Lancashire; Indian shipbuilding has been killed by Belfast and the Clyde; and Indian industries in general have suffered in the fight against more highly organised methods of industry. Occasionally in the long series of defeats there comes a slight victory as, for instance, when the cotton mills of Bombay made a place for themselves in commerce by adopting the methods of their rivals. Still more rarely an Indian industry will not merely hold its own, but it will overpower its competitors. Such cases are exceedingly uncommon and usually upon a very small scale. This week, however, another instance is added to the brief list of victories: the Bengal jute mills have scored an important triumph over the jute factories of London and Dundee. The manufacture of jute was commenced in Bengal thirty years ago, but it is only of late years that it has attained large proportions and now, by reason of the cheapness of labour, it is able to bring down the cost of production below the minimum that English manufacturers need to make a profit. Within the next few months there will be a great increase in the machinery laid down in India, and the coming crisis has forced one of the most important of the English firms to retire from the unequal contest. There is a sort of sombre fitness about the fact that the first factory to close down is a London business owned by Sir James T. Ritchie, the Lord Mayor of the City of London. Nearly a thousand women and men will be thrown out of work and it is to be hoped that they will be able ere long to find other means of employment. Most of the workers are women, the strain, therefore, may be less severe than had been thrown out of employment. Jute is grown in India and, until recently, it has been worked up in England. The new phases of affairs shows that in such circumstances it is comparatively easy for India to obtain the whole series of trades from the raw material to the finished product. At the present day the country is too much of a producer of raw material and does too little in the subsequent manufacturing processes. It should be possible to repeat in other directions the manoeuvre which has captured the jute trade. But Indian capitalists and experts must bestir themselves. As it is they gain nothing from the shifting of the jute mills, for it is British capital that is building the Bengal factories and the superintendence will be largely in British hands. Until the development of Indian industries is taken up keenly and zealously by Indians themselves, their growth can do nothing more than slightly lighten the agricultural difficulty by providing employment for low-grade badly-paid labour. But if Indian trade is to do any permanent good to India it must do vastly more than this: it must provide an outlet for energy and intelligence as well as for muscular labour and for the semi-mechanical work of the machine-minder.

PLAGUE.

It is generally supposed that the plague outbreak in India, which commenced in 1896 and is still raging fiercely, came from Hong Kong. At the British Association this week, addressing the Physiological Section, Dr. Hankin, of Agra, made a new suggestion. He believes that the infection was carried to Bombay by fakirs from Gahrwal who travel down to Nasik once in twelve years on a religious pilgrimage. During the past century three out of the eight pilgrimages were followed by an outbreak of plague in western India. The evidence on which Dr. Hankin founds his theory should certainly be carefully investigated, for a knowledge of the plague centre would prove invaluable in the prevention of subsequent outbreaks. There was one point which, naturally and inevitably, Dr. Hankin did not touch upon. He did not consider how the famines and scarcities of the past ten years have accounted for the virulence and long prevalence of the pest. Weak and enfeebled by want and the diseases which follow in its train, the people must present an exceptionally easy prey to the direful visitation. It may be true that the Government revenues spring up to their old height directly the rains fall; unhappily the human constitution is not so elastic or so hardy. A famine weakens the life energy of a genera-

tion and the plague will make short work of any phantasmal "marvellous recuperative power" which they may possess. Indeed, after two famines there is a risk that plague may become endemic in India. Gahrwal may not remain the only centre of infection. There are a hundred districts in India to-day which may be endemic, for if weakness of body be any help to its spread it has plenty of material on which to work.

A BETTER SPIRIT IN THE ARMY.

Lord Kitchener's Army Order is one of the pleasantest pieces of news from India that has reached us for some time, and there will be better news to come if, now that the Order of 1903 is cancelled, the relations between the British soldiers and the Indian people remain on their present more satisfactory footing. Perhaps it is not altogether visionary to believe that this will prove to be the case. After all, the incorrigible savage is only a small minority in the British Army and so long as his evil deeds meet with prompt punishment they will be kept in check and the spread of their influence over his companions will be arrested. In the meantime a healthier public opinion will grow up in Army circles, and attacks upon a barrack servant or an inoffensive stranger will no longer escape the condemnation they deserve even among the comrades of the wrong-doer. The change may not come all at once, but at any rate it is coming. It would be impossible for anyone who has followed this matter in the past to conclude a mention of it without some reference to Lord Curzon and the part which he has played in restraining the brutal instincts of the troops. There may be—I think, there is—much in his recent policy that is hateful and destructive of the best in Indian life. But in his earlier mood, before Lhasa and the secretariats had wrought evil to his character, he did good things in a fine and vigorous way. Of these perhaps the best was his action against military brutality and he has been fortunate in having Lord Kitchener as Commander-in-Chief to enforce his determination in this respect. The two together deserve earnest praise which no man will grudge to them though all will envy.

THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

On several occasions I have had occasion to mention the good work done by the "Daily Graphic" in popularising Sir Mancherjee Bhownagjee's views upon the British Indian question and this week the journal continues its campaign. The recent attitude of the Legislative Council illustrates, it thinks, the difficulty of persuading local legislatures to face Imperial responsibilities, and the consequent necessity of the maintenance of a firm control by the Imperial Government in all questions affecting the Empire at large. Even if the white inhabitants of the Transvaal constituted an independent state it is somewhat doubtful whether they would be entitled to refuse admission to persons from outside seeking only to trade peacefully. As it is, in spite of Mr. Lytton's despatch, the Legislative Council appears unable to understand that Indian traders are, equally with themselves, subjects of the King, and equally entitled to the protection of the Government. "In order that these men, of whom many are not even British subjects, may enjoy a trading monopoly, the Transvaal Council, in effect, demands that the military forces of the Empire should be used to exclude from a British Colony peaceful and loyal subjects of the British Crown." Such a position the "Daily Graphic" rightly holds to be indefensible. It goes on to make a masterly analysis of the Indian position and its argument is worth quoting at length.

"The question of colour is always put forward as the excuse for the policy of exclusion advocated by the white traders of the Transvaal. It is argued that the Transvaal must be made a white man's Colony. That argument is plausible in the case of Australia, though it is exaggerated even there. In the case of the Transvaal it is ridiculous for the simple reason that already about five-sixths of the population is coloured. Those five-sixths cannot be exterminated, nor can they be kept for ever in a state of semi-servitude, condemned to manual drudgery alone. They must be allowed free play for their faculties, and if they succeed in passing the white man in any particular walk of life he must either accept the consequences of his inferiority or prove his real superiority by moving up to some higher occupation. That is what happens in India, where white traders and Indian traders work contentedly side by side without any thought of regulating questions of trade by shades of colour. As far as can be seen, the presence of Indians in the Transvaal, so far from being a loss to the Colony, will be an immense gain. They are intellectually and morally far ahead of Kaffirs or even Chinamen. They are hard-working and frugal, but like other people, they find their wants expand with their wealth—so much so, indeed, that it is even made a grievance against them that they spend money on horses and carriages. They are, moreover, as they showed in Natal during the Boer War, intensely loyal, and willing to risk their lives, as well as their fortunes, in defence of the flag under which they were born. Of such subjects any Empire may be proud, and it is the duty of the Imperial Government to protect them at all costs against injustice, whether it is prompted by trade jealousy or by race prejudice."

The "Daily Graphic" may take credit to itself for the really admirable way in which it is hammering at the Indian grievances and exposing the fallacies put forward by the other party.

The publication of the full despatches between Mr. Lytton and Lord Mimer shows that the Colonial Secretary has weakened his position. He will not permit any drastic law against those Indians already in the Transvaal but he will allow the passage of a stringent immigration law against new-comers and a segregation law for the marking out of locations. It is true that no Indian of a better class will be forced into the locations, and of the lower classes only those that are insubstantial in habit. But these distinctions are little more than mere verbiage. The predominant influences in the local government of the Transvaal are so virulently prejudiced against British Indians that they must not be trusted with the power of segregation. There is no need for a special quarter outside each town for the reception of unfortunate immigrants. In allowing them to be built Mr. Lytton is risking his own honour and the honour of England. Legislation of the type which the White League desires will be at best invidious and unsatisfactory, and at worst a cruel and grinding tyranny.

THE DURBAR GUIDE.

The official history of the Delhi Durbar has been issued—quarto size, red binding, broad margins, splendid type, an "editio de luxe" to describe a durbar "de luxe." But, on the

whole, the production is a disappointing one. Indeed, the "Times" has the temerity to suggest that it is "abysmally dull." This is unkind of the "Times." For did not Mr. Ben Wheeler's father describe the Durbar of 1877, and does not the Durbar of 1903 knock spots off the 1877 Durbar? How much better, therefore, must be the official history of the Delhi spectacle of 1903 than that of 1877. Besides, we are informed in the preface that Mr. Wheeler has had the Great Man's help throughout: "The proofs of the various chapters, as successively written, have been despatched to India for final revision."

The "Daily Chronicle" even declares that the preface as a whole and the book in parts bear the impress of Lord Curzon's hand and display the most familiar features of his oratory. It quotes a few sounding periods and adds: "If these are not Lord Curzon's own words, they are a marvellous imitation of his manner." But, "abysmally dull" is the opinion of the "Times" reviewer who elaborates the verdict in half a column of tactfully worded condemnation. Unable to trace a resemblance to Lord Curzon's literary ability, the critic deprecates that the Viceroy did not write the whole account himself. "No doubt," he declares, "it was Mr. Wheeler's misfortune rather than his fault that he had to essay the impossible." "Yet was it really impossible?" asks the reviewer rhetorically, and he replies, in effect, "Of course not; so long as Lord Curzon could handle a pen or dictate a page of richly decorated prose to his private secretary, nothing is impossible." And he goes on to say—I use his own words now—"This amounts, after all, merely to the suggestion that no one could write the story of the Delhi Durbar as Lord Curzon could if he would; a suggestion which we feel sure Mr. Wheeler will not resent." On the whole, Mr. Wheeler seems to have turned out a painstaking catalogue of every word that was said and everything that was done.

"We have," admits the "Times" "the full ritual of every function, the precise marshalling of every procession, the muster of all the troops, the description of all the camps, civil and military, the complete list of all the guests European and Indian, verbatim reports of every speech and every local address, and even in some cases the programmes performed by the bands."

In a word, it is just the book to place in the hands of an ambitious stage-manager who wished to repeat the ceremonial on an identical plan and scale. If the various chapters were brought out in a six-penny edition they might be distributed advantageously among his scene-shifters to aid them in their work. It will prove a useful "prompt-book" when Lord Curzon has another Durbar on hand. At Dover, during the appointment of the present Lord Warden its pages would have been useful and suggestive. But, alas, the publisher had not at that time completed what is perhaps the best bit of work in the whole sumptuous volume.

DEPREDACTIONS BY KAHARS.

Raozan, Sept. 10.

Some persons belonging to the "Kahar" class—a class known to live on dacoity—were staying at Chikdair near the police station Raozan. Two months ago they had stolen a married Hindu lady, named Sarala, aged 16 or 17, from the village Keakdair. No trace could be found of her for a time. Suddenly the junior Sub-Inspector of Raozan released the woman from the hold of a "Kahar." The case is being tried before the Magistrate of Chittagong. In three nights the Kahars poisoned more than 15 cattle. In order to find out the culprit some men were deputed to watch their movements. Last night at about 10 p.m. they caught one Kahar inside their cowshed with poison in his possession. The people of the neighbourhood assembled there to help them. Then some other "Kahars" having heard the "goalm" came in a body to rescue the man. Having failed in their attempt, they set fire, under orders of their ringleader and others, to more than 18 houses. The culprit is still in the custody of the said villagers. Fearing a brush with the "Kahars," the villagers dare not take the culprit to the police station 2 miles off. The police being indifferent, the villagers have wired to the higher authorities for their personal safety. The attention of the police is drawn to the matter.

PROTEST MEETING IN MADRAS.

Madras, Sept. 10.

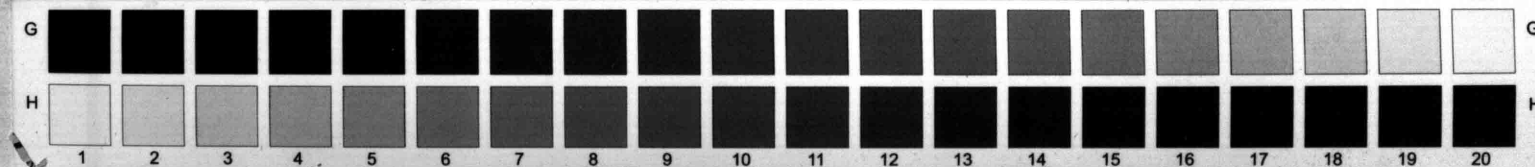
Under the auspices of the Madras Mahajana Sabha a largely attended public meeting was held last night at the Puchaiyappah Hall under the presidency of Rai Bahadur P. Ananda Charlu, C.I.E. Several speeches were made condemning the Tibet Expedition as uncalled for and undertaken for the glorification of Lord Curzon and the military element which dominates the councils of the Government of India. It was urged that the Expedition was undertaken solely in Imperial interests and in the interests of British trade, and therefore it was for Great Britain to pay the cost. India, however, would bear some share of the Imperial burden as a unit of the Empire. The following resolution was adopted with acclamation:—"That this public meeting of the citizens of Madras records its emphatic protest against the injustice of saddling the revenues of India with the cost of the Tibet Expedition, and prays that the Expedition having been undertaken for the promotion of Imperial interests, the whole cost, or at least a substantial portion of it, should be borne by Great Britain." Resolutions were also adopted appointing a committee to draw up and submit a memorial to Parliament embodying the prayer of the former resolution, and placing on record their sense of appreciation of the services of the British Committee of the Congress and distinguished politicians in England in championing the cause of India, special mention being made of Sir Henry Cotton's sympathies and services.

Lord and Lady Curzon will reach Simla on the 17th October. Their arrival will be public.

Deolali is mentioned as a possible temporary location for the Indian Staff College while necessary buildings are being erected at Quetta.

The Burma Government are making a grant-in-aid of Rs. 11,000 this fiscal year to technical schools in the Province; a sum of Rs. 2000 is also being spent on a school of commerce; while Engineering scholarships awarded by the Government at the Insein Engineering School are to cost about Rs. 600 in the year. On Survey scholarships over Rs. 16,000 are to be spent during the year.

The Regiments which the Amir has lately raised have been sent to Afghan Turkestan for training. The Amir is evincing a good deal of interest in his Army.



The Tibet Expedition

SETTLEMENT AT LHASSA.

THE TREATY SIGNED.

Gyangtse, Sept. 9. Lhasa, Sept. 7.—The treaty between Great Britain and Tibet was signed to-day in the Palace of the Dalai Lama. The Tibetan signatories were Te Rinpoche, or the Regent, four Shapas as Members of Council, the Abbot of the three great monasteries of De-bung, Sera, and Gaden, and the representative of the National Assembly. The Amban asked that the assembly should not be held in the hall which contains the sacred picture of the Chinese Emperor. It appears that this portrait, which was introduced in the Potala nearly 100 years ago, is regarded with extreme awe and reverence. On account of its presence the Dalai Lama is supposed never to leave the Palace without the consent of Amban, and his desertion of the picture at this crisis is regarded by the Amban and the Chinese as a flagrant breach of national obligation. The audience chamber selected was the Throne Room of the Dalai Lama, a room with brilliantly tapestried walls and pillars ornamented with richly coloured frescoes. Besides the signatories there were present the Amban and suite the Tongsa Penlop of Bhutan and the Nepalese Resident and suites, and a large gathering of British officers. Behind the circle stood a group of Sikhs, Pathans, and Gurkhas.

The ceremony began with the reading of the terms in Tibetan. Then the Treaty was placed on a table in the centre of the hall, the delegates sitting round. The Lamas wore russet robes and the Shapas robes of silk. The Treaty was written on a voluminous scroll in Tibetan, English, and Chinese in parallel columns. The signatories stepped forward in turn and attached their seals to each column. There was no trace of sullenness or displeasure in the Tibetans as they signed. The Regent, who is a benign-looking ecclesiastic of great dignity, smiled as he added his name. The general attitude of the Tibetans was cheerful and good-natured.

COLONEL YOUNGHUSBAND'S SPEECH. After signing the Treaty, Colonel Youngd made the following speech: "The Convention has been signed. We are now at peace and the misunderstandings of the past are over. A basis has been laid for mutual good relations in the future. In the Convention the British Government have been careful to avoid interfering in the smallest degree with your religion. They have annexed no part of your territory, have made no attempt to interfere with your internal affairs, and have fully recognised the continued suzerainty of the Chinese Government. They have merely sought to ensure that you shall abide by the Treaty made by the Amban in 1890; that trade relations between India and Tibet, which are no less advantageous to you than to us, should be established, as they have been with every other part of the Chinese Empire and with every other country in the world except Tibet; that British representatives should be treated with respect in the future; and that you should not depart from your traditional policy in regard to political relations with other countries. The Treaty which has now been made I promise you on behalf of the British Government, we will rigidly observe, but I also warn you we will as rigidly enforce it. Any infringement of it will be severely punished in the end. Any obstruction of trade, any disrespect or injury shown to British subjects, will be noticed and requited exactly. We treat you well when you come to India. We do not take a single rupee in customs duty from your merchants. We allow any of you to travel and reside wherever you will in India. We preserve the ancient buildings of the Buddhist faith, and we expect that when we come to Tibet we should be treated with no less consideration and respect than we show to you in India. You have found us bad enemies when you have not observed treaty obligations and shown disrespect to the British Raj; you will find us equally good friends if you keep the Treaty and show us civility. I trust that the peace which has this moment been established between us will last for ever, and that we may never again be forced to treat you as enemies. As a first token of peace I will ask General Macdonald to release all prisoners of war. I expect that you on your part will set at liberty all those who have been imprisoned on account of dealings with us."

After the conclusion of the speech, which was interpreted in the Tibetan language sentence by sentence and again in Chinese, the Tibetans expressed their intention to observe the Treaty faithfully. The meeting closed at six o'clock, having lasted three hours.

With the signing of the Treaty to-day the work of the present Mission to Lhasa is practically ended. How far the flight of the Dalai Lama will affect our future relations with Tibet is a matter of great uncertainty. When he returns there are likely to be divisions in the State which may be subversive of the new conditions. A Political Resident will be left in the country. The practical results of the Mission are these: The discrediting of a ruler who threatened our security and prestige on the North-East Frontier by overtures to a foreign Power; the demonstration to the Tibetans that this Power is unable to support them in their policy of defiance to Great Britain, and that the headquarters of Lamaism are not inaccessible to British troops. For more than a century we have preserved a policy of inactivity with regard to Tibet which has been totally misconstrued. Our policy of forbearance and conciliation has been attributed to weakness, and nothing but the presence of British troops in the capital itself could dispel this illusion. In view of the bigotry and arrogance of the Tibetans, it is most fortunate that circumstances have compelled us to proceed to Lhasa and conclude a Treaty in the Potala itself. Had the treaty been concluded at Tuna, or even at Gyangtse, it is doubtful if the impression would have been so lasting or the results of the Mission so far-reaching. Further, the communications during the past month must have tended to promote friendly relations with the people of Lhasa and will leave an impression that our strength is tempered with humanity.

We have shown the Tibetans that we can respect their religion, and the greatest credit is due to Colonel Younghusband that he had been to overcome the obstinacy and obstructiveness of the Lamas without resorting to coercive measures. At one time it seemed impossible to make any progress in the negotiations without further recourse to arms. However, when we leave Lhasa—and the date is fixed approximately for the 20th—we shall have the satisfaction of a sacred building demolished. The difficulties of the campaign have not been exaggerated on

bringing the column through to Lhasa without a mishap, and grappling successfully with unparalleled difficulties of supply and transport on the road.

GENERAL MACDONALD'S REPORT.

Simla, Sept. 10. A telegram from General Macdonald, dated Lhasa 4th September, refers to the condition of the wounded officers. Lieutenant Mitchell, 32nd Pioneers, and Captain Young, I.M.S. are both doing well.

Lhasa, Sept. 7, 5 a.m.—A survey party with (me by) (sic) Gurkhas and a section of the Mounted Infantry left on the morning of the 2nd to proceed 20 miles up the Trilung Valley. The usual reconnaissances were sent out daily with negative results. All is reported quiet on the line of communications. The Sangpo is still in heavy flood but falling and the weather has improved.

Lhasa, Sept. 7, 5 p.m.—The survey party returned from the Trilung Valley on the 5th, reporting all quiet. Very heavy rain with snow fell low down on the surrounding mountains on the nights of the 5th and 6th.

SIMLA OPINION.

Simla, Sept. 10. The convention which has been signed with the Lhasa officials by Colonel Younghusband is regarded here as highly satisfactory, and the result of the Mission so far is a brilliant success. A good deal, however, yet remains to be done before the full object of the Mission is attained, and the Foreign Office at Simla is in active communication with the Pekin authorities regarding the terms of the treaty. No official date has yet been fixed for the return of the Mission, but it is believed that some of the troops will at any rate commence their return almost at once.

THE KING'S CONGRATULATIONS.

Simla, Sept. 12. On the 10th September the Viceroy telegraphed to His Majesty the King Emperor that a convention with Tibet had been signed by the Tibetans in the Potala Palace, at Lhasa, on the 7th, and added that the greatest credit is due to Colonel Younghusband and the officers of the Mission, both civil and military, for the patience, courage, forbearance and tact with which they have brought about this happy conclusion of an affair which has caused so much anxiety to Your Majesty's Ministers at home and Your Majesty's Government in India. The relations between the Mission and the Tibetans are now of a most amicable nature.

His Majesty in replying on the same date said: "I wish you to express to Colonel Younghusband and all the officers of the Mission my high approval of the admirable manner in which they have brought their difficult mission to a happy conclusion, while the conduct of the troops composing the mission escort has been throughout deserving of the highest praise and commendation."

The following telegrams were then sent by the Viceroy on 11th September:—(1) To His Majesty the King: "I have telegraphed to Colonel Younghusband the gracious message which Your Majesty commanded me to convey to the Tibet Mission, and I beg leave to express my dutiful thanks for Your Majesty's congratulations." (2) To Colonel Younghusband, Tibet: "His Majesty the King Emperor commands me to express to you and all the officers of the Mission his high approval of the admirable manner in which you have brought your difficult mission to a happy conclusion. It is also His Majesty's command that the troops composing the mission escort be informed that their conduct has been throughout deserving of the highest praise and commendation."

LIGHT-WEIGHT COINS.

Simla, Sept. 12. The following Press Communiqué has been issued from the Finance Department:—The rules for the receipt of light-weight coins, published in the Notification of the Government of India, in the Finance and Commerce Department, dated the 24th March, 1899, prescribe that rupees or half-rupees, which have not lost more than 64 per cent. in weight, shall be accepted at their nominal value and withdrawn from circulation at the cost of Government. The withdrawal of coins bearing the dates 1835 and 1840, which have been in progress for some years, has given the Mint authorities an opportunity of examining a large number of old coins and collecting statistics of the actual loss of weight. These statistics show that a very small proportion, considerably less than 1 per cent. of the coins examined, have lost more than 4 per cent. in weight by reasonable wear. The margin of 64 per cent. allowed under the orders of 1899 appears, therefore, to be too liberal and to constitute an inducement to maltreatment of silver coins. The Government of India have under consideration a proposal to reduce the maximum allowance for reasonable wear to 4 per cent. Under this proposal coins which have not lost more than 4 per cent. in weight, and have not undergone patent maltreatment, would be received at their full nominal value, coins which have lost more than 4, but not more than 10 per cent. in weight would be received at the rate of 14 annas per rupee, and coins which have lost more than 10 per cent. would be cut and returned to the tenderer.

The scarcity of Sikh and Mahomedan recruits in the Punjab, owing to the ravages of plague, may cause attention to be directed to sources of supply among the Awan tribes within the border. These seem to have suffered comparatively slightly from the disease, and the North-West Frontier Province might be able to supply more men if recruiting on a large scale were instituted. It may even become necessary to change the class company composition of some battalions, if the death of Sikhs and unjani Mahomedans continues next year. The time would also seem ripe to draw more largely upon the Mahsuds, for, as we pointed out some time ago, Waziristan could supply many more men than are at present drawn from it. A further effort should also be made as regards Buner and the adjacent tracts; and if care is taken to keep the recruits together in companies so as to avoid mixing races which are obnoxious to each other we believe that success would be gained in keeping men in the ranks. It is calculated that upwards of a million deaths from plague have occurred in the Punjab, and as the adult male population has suffered most the effect of the disease on the manhood of the Province can readily be understood. It is obvious that this question of recruiting needs to be urgently considered, for it would be a most serious matter if our best Native regiments were to fall greatly below their proper strength.

INDIAN ORDER OF MERIT.

Simla, Sept. 9. The Governor-General in Council is pleased to sanction the admission to the Third Class of the Indian Order of Merit of the under-mentioned individual:

Subadar Kishen Singh of the Bikaner Camel Corps, for conspicuous gallantry at Daratoleh in Somaliland on the 22nd April, 1903, when he assisted Captain A. G. Walker, and G. N. Rolland to save Captain Bruce (who had been wounded) from falling into the hands of the enemy.

SIVAJI CELEBRATION AT CHITTAGONG.

Chittagong, Sept. 10. The Sivaji Festival was celebrated yesterday in the National School with great pomp and enthusiasm. The hall was nicely decorated with flags and bunting and was crowded by Hindus and Mahomedans to suffocation. The speakers dwelt upon the greatness of Sivaji and tried to convince the audience of the desirability of honouring one hero. No political controversy was allowed.

AGRICULTURAL SITUATION UNCHANGED.

Sholapur, Sept. 9. The sky is overcast with clouds, and there are feeble indications of the monsoon current, but, with the exception of a couple of local showers, the conditions remain unchanged. We are now on the brink of a disastrous famine, which is likely to prove worse than usual owing to the prevalence of cholera. A water famine is also feared in many places, and the outlook, on the whole, is a despondently gloomy one. Experts state, however, that if a vigorous rainfall occurs before Monday next the crops may yet be saved, although belated.

It will be noticed that the organisation of famine relief works is already in progress. The prices of grain and cattle fodder have risen 25 per cent., and it is expected to go yet higher.

SCATTERED SHOWERS IN KATHIAWAR.

Bhavnagar experienced a dust-storm on Monday evening last, and the sky, becoming overcast, promised a heavy downpour, but nothing beyond a sharp shower was received. The weather continues hot. Reports are received of small showers having fallen at Dolia, Than, Muli and Zinzwad. In view of the impending famine, his Highness the Maharajah of Bhavnagar has issued orders to adopt preliminary measures for opening relief works, and the State Revenue Officer has been instructed to hold a conference of Revenue officers of the different districts to discuss the threatened situation, and to suggest relief measures to be adopted.

GUJARAT.

Ahmedabad, Sept. 7. The prospects are becoming more and more gloomy day by day, and all hopes of rain have now been abandoned. The jowari, bajri and maize crops have withered away, and the tanks and ponds are dry. Signs of famine are already to be observed, as the scarcity of fodder is being felt, and the cultivators are sending their cattle to Panjrapole. Rates of food grains are rising daily.

BROACH.

Broach, Sept. 9. A meeting of the Deputy Collector, Assistant Collector and mamuldar of the different talukas of Broach District was held yesterday in the Collector's bungalow, under the presidency of the Collector, to discuss the steps to be adopted for giving relief to the famine-stricken people in the district. At the conference, which lasted for about two hours, it was resolved to open relief works on a small scale from the 1st proximo and to pay each male employed on the work at the rate of two annas and each female an anna and a half per day. It was further resolved to apply to the Commissioner of the Northern Division for assistance in supplying water in places where it is needed, but nothing has been definitely settled about supplying fodder.

SURAT.

Surat, Sept. 7. All hopes of rain have now been abandoned. The crops of jowari, bajri, etc., are withering, and the cotton plants, though still in good condition, are now threatened with total destruction. The prices of food grains and fodder have considerably increased.

MHOW.

Mhow, Sept. 7. The failure of the monsoon and the outbreak of plague have caused a panic. The prices of food stuffs are increasing.

THE COTTON CROP.

Bombay, Sept. 9. Telegraphic reports from the Cotton Districts are as follows:—Deccan: Cloudy, but no rain, cotton plants flourishing, food grains suffering from want of rain. Amraoti: Rain general over the district, all crops doing well. Khamgaon: Continuous cloudy with slight drizzle, cotton plants in flower, food grains doing well. Dhule: Continuous cloudy, rain much needed generally, expect improvement in crops owing to seasonable weather. Jalgaon: Continuous cloudy, dry here, but raining in the surrounding districts, more rain wanted generally, cotton plants showing bolls and want more rain, all crops suffering from too little rain; absence causes anxiety. Broach: Bright, no sign of rain, easterly wind, cotton plants flourishing and want more rain, food grains suffering from too little rain. Viramagam: Bright, no sign of rain, rain much needed generally, absence of rain causes anxiety. Wadhwan: Drought still continues, rain much needed generally, cotton plants flourishing and want more rain, food grains and all crops suffering from too little rain, absence of rain causes anxiety. Dholera: Bright, rain much needed generally, absence causes anxiety. Bhavnagar: Bright, no sign of rain, rain much needed generally, absence of rain causes anxiety. Barsi: Continuous cloudy, looks like rain, cotton plants want more rain, absence of rain causes anxiety. Sholapur: Drought still continues, unusually hot. Hubli: Cloudy but no rain, rain much needed generally, absence of rain causes anxiety. Bellary: Rain so far insufficient to enable agricultural operations to get a fair start.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, Sept. 9. Reuter wiring from Mukden on the 7th says that after being attacked from the Eastern hills Monday on the main portion of the Russians crossed the railway and are proceeding north by the western road. The Rear guard south of Mukden is moving with difficulty owing to bad roads. A later despatch from Reuter at Mukden says that the retreat has been safely accomplished. The Japanese have failed to utilize the Russians' serious plight and are probably fagged out. The accumulation of the wounded between Liaoyang and Mukden has taxed the Red Cross Society to the utmost. The Russian commissariat, formerly deplorable, worked magnificently. The millet, to which the Russians are not accustomed, proved an insupportable ally to the Japanese, who owe their escape to some of the principal Russian reverses.

London, Sept. 10. Reuter's St. Petersburg correspondent telegraphs that General Sakharoff wires that there was no fighting since the 8th instant in the area of operations.

Russia has agreed to pay indemnity for the seizure of the British steamers "Frankley" and "Ettrickdale." The "Standard," in a leading article, declares that European thought had decided for centuries past that there can be no true civilization unless it was of Christian, Greek or of Roman origin. Japan has shattered this flattering theory. The whole Japanese people seem to be possessed of irresistible energy.

During the last three or four months, between 400,000 and 500,000 tons of coal were purchased at Cardiff for the Russian Government. A large quantity is now on its way to Manila to which place the coal is consigned. It is stated that 110 shillings per ton were paid for coal for Vladivostok.

Reuter's Tokio correspondent says that General Hasegawa, commanding the Imperial Guards, is the probable Governor of Manchuria. The "Times" correspondent with the Japanese left army, says the Japanese spoils of war at Liaoyang, were quite insignificant. The Japanese were unable to secure any locomotives of which they are urgently in need and there was no, nothing strategically excellent in the handling of either army, but General Oku commands the finest infantry in the world and no other army could for five consecutive days deliver eight unsuccessful general infantry assaults against entrenchments and still persevere.

Reuter at St. Petersburg says that Kuropatkin telegraphs that there was no fighting on the 9th, and that the enemy were quite inactive, and heavy rains prevent the repairing of roads. A remarkable change is occurring in British opinion relative to the capacities of the belligerents. The tendency hitherto has been to despise Russian strategy, but the critics declared they must modify their previous opinions regarding the prospects of the campaign, and for the first time there seems a doubt about the outcome. The "Daily Telegraph" says Count Oyama was completely foiled by Kuropatkin's indomitable tactics.

London, Sept. 11. The Tsar has called out fresh reserves in 22 Odessa districts, and one category of reserve officers throughout the Empire. A correspondent at the front estimates the combined Russian and Japanese losses from the 26th ultimo to the 5th instant at from sixty to seventy thousand men.

Reuter's correspondent lately with Kuropatkin at Liaoyang telegraphs that he was taken prisoner on the entry of the Japanese and left under a guard for Yingkow, but escaped from his escort. He has sent a long despatch describing the battle of Liaoyang, which concluded by stating the battle is fully accepted as determining the mastery of Manchuria. The Russian strength, he says, was fully equal to the Japanese. They had approximately 18,000 men, and their artillery was superior in range and rapidity of fire. The Japanese are preparing Liaoyang for the headquarters of the Manchurian army.

Kuropatkin telegraphs on the 10th that there were no hostilities on Saturday, except insignificant encounters between patrols. No Russian casualties. Reuter from Tokio says that the approximate casualties at Liaoyang based upon the Surgeons' reports, were, in Kuroki's forces, 4,866, in Nodzu's 4,992, and in Oku's 7,681. There were also 136 officers killed and 464 wounded. The Japanese Headquarters estimate the Russian losses up to the fall of Liaoyang at 25,000.

London, Sept. 12. The Baltic fleet has sailed from Kronstadt, and it is announced that its destination is the Far East.

A Daily Telegraph despatch from Liaoyang dated the 8th instant states that Kuroki's army has been drawn in, and is now five miles to the north-east of Liaoyang. The Japanese are preparing a turning movement from the west against Mukden, which they doubtless intend to capture this year, probably within three weeks.

The Russian transport Lena from Vladivostok has arrived at San Francisco.

The Holy Synod has ordered special prayers on Sundays and festival days throughout the Russian Empire, beseeching heavenly aid for the army fighting against a cruel enemy full of guile.

The Daily Telegraph severely criticises the Japanese restrictions on correspondents and attaches, which it characterises as a profound political error, and declares that the sincere sympathy of the west is not encouraged by superfluous evidences of Japanese distrust.

GENERAL.

London, Sept. 9. Notwithstanding the decision to abandon the strike at Marseilles, there has been a hitch and the negotiations continue.

Prince Sviatspolsk Mirskif, the new Minister of the Interior, has the reputation for humanity and enlightenment and his appointment is considered as a defeat for the reactionaries.

The "Times" says we owe a deep debt to Colonel Younghusband, and it is doubtful whether any negotiator of less consummate experience could have brought the matter to the present successful conclusion which is due in a high degree to his patient and unflinching tactfulness.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

GENERAL.

London, Sept. 10. General French's advance from the Essex Coast was suddenly checked, and he is now in full retreat towards the sea with General Wynne pursuing.

At a meeting of the Cotton Federation at Manchester, it was decided to leave the question of short time to the discretion of individual members.

London, Sept. 12. The Antarctic Ship "Discovery" arrived at Portsmouth to-day, and was welcomed by a number of scientists. Elaborate civil receptions at Portsmouth and London will follow. The King will order a special medal to be struck in recognition of the successful enterprise.

The natives have murdered five German Catholic Fathers and three Sisters in German New Guinea. Their design to massacre all the whites was frustrated. Sixteen natives have been executed.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

THE SIEGE OF PORT ARTHUR.

THE CZAR'S MESSAGE TO THE DEFENDERS.

Colombo, Sept. 9. The Czar has sent the following telegram to General Stoessel:—"I direct you to congratulate the troops, sailors and inhabitants of Port Arthur, in my name and on behalf of the whole Russian nation, on the success gained in fighting. I am fully convinced of their absolute readiness to uphold the glory of our arms by their unbounded bravery. I warmly thank all, and may the Most High bless their heroic deeds, which entailed such heavy sacrifices. May He protect the fortress of Port Arthur from the attacks of the enemy."

OPENING OF THE CIRCUM-BAIKAL RAILWAY.

JAPANESE RE-INFORCEMENTS.

Allahabad, Sept. 10. A special cable from the "Pioneer's" correspondent, dated London, the 9th September states that according to a St. Petersburg telegram fighting is now insignificant. The majority of the Russians are to the north of Mukden, while General Kuroki is thirteen miles to the south. A battle on a scale equal to Liaoyang is expected shortly. The Circum-Baikal Railway opens to-morrow.

It is stated at Tokio that the Japanese have arranged to despatch reinforcements throughout the winter.

PORT ARTHUR INFERNO.

Colombo, Sept. 9. One thousand Russian officers and men from the Russian warships, including a company from the Casarevitch, are interred at Kiaochow by order of the German authorities, in pursuance with German's neutrality. The German authorities have sent a hundred men fifteen miles east of Kiaochow to prevent the Japanese erecting a wireless telegraph station in that locality.

The Japanese have occupied Taipingze, only a mile from Port Arthur, and situated between the city and the Russian forts on the Russian right wing.

A daily average of one hundred shells are being poured into the town, and the dry dock and railway station are badly damaged.

The Russians declare that a Chinese engineer, who deserted to the Japanese, has supplied the enemy with information, enabling them to subdivide Port Arthur into sections accurately, and bombard the town.

AFTER THE BATTLE, JAPANESE CASUALTIES.

Bombay, Sept. 12. Marshal Oyama reports that our Right Army occupied Yenta Colliery and Yumenze Hill after the fighting on the 4th and 5th instant. The enemy's main force is believed to have retired to the north of the Sun river. Natives say that the enemy retired by train, and that over 10,000 were killed and wounded. We buried over 3,000 Russians. The enemy, before the evacuation, burned their magazines near the Station, but we captured immense quantities of provisions and ammunition.

Our casualties in the Liaoyang battle since 26th August last were estimated 17,539 distributed as follows:—Right Army, 4,866; Centre, 4,992; and the Left, 7,681. The casualties of officers were:—killed, 136 and wounded 464.

PARS FROM "PIONEER."

(From our own Correspondent.)

Allahabad, Sept. 13. The London correspondent wires under date September 12:—

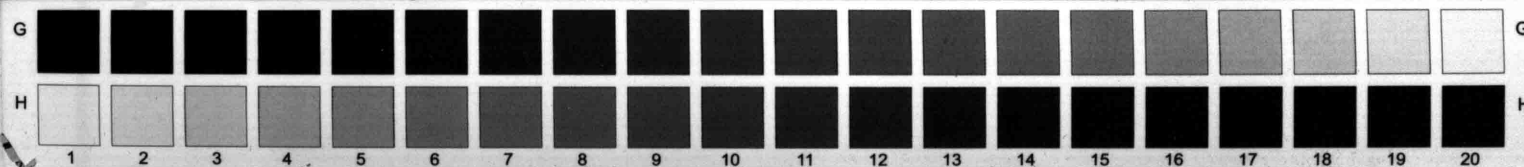
The starving Japanese soldiers have looted Liaoyang and stabbed a Scottish missionary, Dr. Westwater.

The 20th instant as mentioned by the correspondents with the Tibet mission may be accepted as the probable date on which the march back from Lhasa will begin.

The survey of a permanent road into the Chumbi Valley from the Jalpaiguri district is to be taken in hand forthwith. The route to be surveyed is about ninety miles.

PROPOSED REMOVAL OF SIBSAGAR HEAD-QUARTERS.

Sibsagar Sept. 12. An important meeting of the Sibsagar Sadar Local Board was held at Nazira on 10th September. Mr. J. Donald, Deputy Commissioner of Sibsagar, was in the Chair. The honourable Mr. J. Buckingham, C.I.E., spoke strongly against the proposal of the removal of the district head-quarters from Sibsagar to Jorbat. Mr. R. N. Farquharson, general manager of the Assam Tea Company, and the other European representative members of the planting community as also all the Indian members present voted against the removal of the head-quarters from Sibsagar. It was unanimously resolved to protest against the proposal.



Scientific Notes.

RADIUM IN INDO-CHINA.

The Indo-China mails at Marseilles recently state that the authorities of that French dependency are making systematic surveys in search of the mineral yielding radium. It is added that good hopes are entertained of success. Meanwhile, the search has yielded good results in other directions. At Yen-Bay there have been discovered valuable coal beds, for which measures are to be undertaken for working at an early date.

SNAKE VENOM.

Sir Thomas R. Fraser, M.D., F.R.S., and Major R. H. Elliot, I.M.S., have been conducting a research into the action of snake venoms, and have communicated the results to the Royal Society. They find that the most deadly of all substances of this nature which they have examined is the venom of the sea-snake, *Enhydrina valakadem*, resembling, but more lethal than that of the cobra. The sea-snake has, of course, nothing to do with the sea-serpent; it constitutes a well-known family of the ophiidia, known as the hydrophæa on account of their living almost exclusively in the sea. Chiefly they are found in the Indian Ocean.

MARINE MOTORING.

The victory of the French motor boat in the cross-Channel race the other day is another hint to inventors and manufacturers to wake up. If anyone will take the trouble to examine a first-rate motor car, and find out how many of the fittings have been "made in France," he will probably be rather astonished. Nor is it only in motors that we seem to be falling behind. One of the greatest and most enterprising of the English railway companies has just ordered a locomotive in France, having found that the French engine would draw eight cars up a steep gradient where the English engines could only manage to deal with seven.

OYSTERS AND TYPHOID.

It is rather interesting—particularly as the months with R's, in them are now so rapidly approaching—to read the verdict of the French Faculty of Sciences on the much maligned oyster. Professor Giard, one of the most notable of the French oyster specialists, testifies to the fact that the diseases peculiar to that succulent bivalve are not transmissible to man, but greatly daring, he even doubts whether the supposed cases of typhoid due to oyster-eating are at all authentic. He does not, we gather, deny that people who have eaten oysters have got typhoid afterwards, but he does deny that the oysters were the cause. It will be remembered that during the late scare Great Britain even the contaminated oysters were found only contain the harmless "bacillus coli communis."

RADIUM DESTROYS DIAMONDS.

Sir William Crookes in the course of some experiments on the influence of radium on the constitution of matter, made some interesting discoveries with regard to the effects caused by the exposure of diamonds to radio emanations. If diamonds be placed in the path of these emanations they are converted from the carbon crystal to the less attractive and commoner form of graphite. Sir W. Crookes suggests, however, that this discovery may possibly prove of commercial importance to the jeweller, for not only is the surface converted into graphite, but the colour of the stone is entirely changed. This being so, an "off-colour" stone may be lightened and its value thus increased, while the prolonged action of radium has been found to add to the intensity of pale-coloured gems. Thus, in the near future we may hear of "radium-improved gems."

WOOD SPIRIT.

The Americans are also speculating on the possibility of imitating the Germans in producing wood spirit for industrial purposes. An immense amount of wood is cut down every year in the States for conversion into charcoal for the iron-foundries. But of late years, beside nearly every charcoal plant there has been raised a chemical plant, to rescue the wood alcohol. In New York and Pennsylvania eighty wood alcohol and acetic acid plants exist, which supply the iron-foundries with charcoal and turn out the spirit and acetic acid as by-products—the total alcoholic out-put amounting to a million and a half gallons a year. In Germany alcohol is so cheap that several forms of alcoholic motor are working. Whether this result will follow in America remains to be proved; but there is assuredly a future for wood spirit, which only the other day was all literally lost in smoke. It is computed that now from 75 to 80 per cent. of the tree, branches and all, is utilised for the up-to-date charcoal maker.

A survey of a permanent road through the Chumbi Valley will shortly be taken up.

Colonel Morgan, Inspector-General of the Civil Veterinary Department, leaves Simla on the 29th proximo for a tour in the Punjab.

Private Robertson, who was responsible for the murder of two constables in connection with the recent murder at Kandy, was committed by the Police Magistrate of Colombo to take his trial before the Supreme Court. The accused selected to be tried by an English-speaking jury.

A scheme for the re-organization of the Telegraph Department on the lines of the Public Works Department is now before the Government of India. The idea is to create Circles and give more powers to Circle Officers. This, it is understood, will considerably reduce the work at Headquarters.

The Secretary of State for India has sanctioned an increase of two Officers in the Civil Veterinary Department, and this will bring up the strength of Officers to twenty-four appointments. One of these newly-created appointments as gone to Mr. Montgomery, and another will shortly be filled up by the India Office.

We learn from Home that the pay of the Chairman of the Railway Board will probably be fixed at Rs. 6,000 per mensem, and the members will probably draw Rs. 4,000 each. The tenure of these appointments will be limited to five years. The formation of the Board, it is understood, will be proceeded with almost immediately.—"T. D. News."

Orders have been received at Woolwich for the immediate construction of fifty of the new 18 pounder field guns for batteries in India. These guns when delivered will require eight-six gun batteries or half a dozen batteries and three reserve batteries. Orders have also been received at the Royal Arsenal for a number of 12 pounder quick-firers to supplement the auxiliary armament of Gibraltar.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

From the 1st to 31st August, the bounty, at the rate of nine pice per pound, has been paid on 122,637 lbs. of Green Teas. The quantity on which bonus has been paid from the beginning of the season to 31st August is 200,245 lbs.

With reference to the explosion of a box of potash at the Delhi railway station some time back, causing the death of the porters, the consignor has been sentenced to two years and Rs. 1,000 fine. The accused has appealed to the Sessions Judge. Bail was refused.

The receipts and disbursements of the Mysore City Industrial School and other special Schools maintained from Local Funds General are estimated thus for 1904-05:—Receipts, Rs. 17,636; Disbursements Rs. 49,200. The latter includes a sum of Rs. 7,070 for the School of Engineering, 5,220 for scholarships tenable in Technical Schools outside the State and in Mr. Tata's Silk Farm at Bangalore.

The Government of Madras, in passing orders on the Annual Report of the working of the Madras Central Museum in 1903-04 says:—"The continued and growing popularity of the Museum is most gratifying. The Government recognise that this is largely due to the solicited care with which Mr. Thurston provides facilities for visitors. The thanks of His Excellency the Governor-in-Council are due to all those who have rendered help to the Superintendent or made donations."

Notwithstanding the Russo-Japanese war the work on the Central Asian Railway actively proceeds. This line is to connect Oranburg with Tashkend, and it is of equal importance in the opening up of Central Asia, to trade in general and for the concentration of Russian troops on the Indian frontier. More than 543 kilometres of rails are laid on the section Tashkend-Kazabinsk; and the whole line, except the rather numerous bridges, is expected to be finished by the middle of this month.

A Negapatam correspondent draws attention to the extremely unsatisfactory condition of the Municipality in respect of sanitation and public health. He says that most of the roads are unmetalled and full of pits and ruts, rendering vehicular traffic a source of great discomfort, if not danger, while the numerous by-lanes and alleys are full of liquid filth which breeds fevers of a malignant type. The market, especially, seems to be in a disgraceful condition, so much so that the Europeans get their supply of meat from Tanjore. If the facts are as stated, it is high time that the Collector interfered to put pressure upon the Municipality to improve matters.

Mr. W. G. MacFarland, I.C.S., Head Assistant Magistrate of Trinichopoly, convicted, on Monday last, V. Arumugam Pillay, Assistant station-master of Rattamalai, the station next to Trinichopoly on the Madras side, for starting from his book station the 24 Mail train (the fast boat Mail) of the 11th of August without obtaining "line clear" from the station-master at Trinichopoly, and sentenced him to six months' rigorous imprisonment. After having started the train he asked for "line clear" and, before it could be wired, the train had arrived at the Trinichopoly Junction. In the ordinary course, however, the "line clear" message was sent after the arrival of the train, and accused produced it to support his defence that he started the train only after receiving the "line clear," but the number he had given in his "line clear" ticket to the driver was a guess figure, it being 20 instead of 34, which it ought to have been.

A Murree correspondent writes to the "Lahore Tribune":—"I have already brought to your notice the feelings of indignation that the treatment of some young officers, say, Lieutenants and 2nd Lieutenants, has created among the Indian gentry of this important military station. They have adopted a queer way of demanding respect from the children of the soil. If a native gentleman passes them riding a pony, he is required to get down before he can pass them. It is, of course, considered very insulting treatment and I have several times heard of cases in which native gentlemen have defied the bullocks. It was only the other day that a Sikh gentleman was ordered to get down when passing an officer, but he passed on without listening to the officer's demands. He was chased by the officer, but without success. Being disappointed in the chase, the above officer on his way back manfully attacked (from horse back) another gentleman who had been walking on foot along with the above Sikh. The offensive gentleman at once returned the blow with his umbrella which he was holding, and exchanged some hot words 'd—n' for 'd—n' and so forth. The officer quietly took his way home."

In October last year the Madras Government resolved to undertake experiments for the eradication of malaria in the districts of South Arcot, Kurnool, Vizagapatam, and Tinnevely, and in the Cochin Municipality. The local authorities were requested to allow the necessary funds, and the Government stated that a special officer would be appointed to supervise the operations. Although nearly a year has passed since the official announcement, the Government orders on the subject have only just been passed. They relate to (a) the filling up or draining of pools or the killing of mosquito larvae by kerosine oil, (b) the treatment of the inhabitants with quinine, and observing microscopically the result of the treatment, and (c) the undertaking of such minor drainage works as would permanently relieve sub-soil and surface water obstacles. The scheme can be applied only gradually as funds permit, but some operations are to be prosecuted every year and suitable provision made in the Budget for the same. Provision will be made in due course for the appointment of a subordinate capable of drawing up plans and estimates for minor sanitary engineering works; in the meantime, other arrangements have been made to facilitate the prosecution of the work. This gives promise of a valuable set of experiments and people in this part of India may be pardoned for reminding the Bengal Government that many times during the past year a suggestion has been made that a tract of land in the neighbourhood of Calcutta should be set apart for similar operations.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

Director of Public Instruction.—Mr. C. Russell, Officiating Assistant Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, is appointed to have charge of the current duties of the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, in addition to his own, during the absence, on special duty, of Mr. A. Pedler, C.I.E.

Calcutta S. C. Court.—Mr. H. L. Bell, Second Judge, Court of Small Causes, Calcutta, is appointed to act as Chief Judge of that Court, during the absence, on furlough, of Mr. E. W. Ormond. Mr. Abul Hassan, Third Judge, Court of Small Causes, Calcutta, on leave, is appointed to act as Second Judge of that Court.

Chief Secretary to the Bengal Government.—The Hon'ble Mr. W. C. Macpherson, C.S.I., Officiating Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, is placed on special duty in connection with the Conference of Commissioners and Heads of Departments to be held in October next. Mr. K. W. Carlyle, C.I.E., on special duty, is appointed to act as Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, during his absence.

Weather and Crops in Bengal.—The rainfall during the week was general and in some places moderately heavy. More rain is needed in Dinajpur and Purnea and also in parts of Burdwan and Hooghly. Harvesting of early paddy and jute continues. Transplantation of winter rice nearly finished. Prospects fair. Cattle-disease reported from 15 districts. Fodder and water generally sufficient. The price of common rice has risen in 6 districts, has fallen in 4, and is stationary in the remainder.

A Police Zoolom Case.—On Tuesday, before Babu G. N. Paul Deputy Magistrate of Alipore two constables attached to the Kownapur Out Post were charged with assault wrongful confinement and highway robbery. One Gopal Chander Mull, a native Christian asked the help of the accused to rescue his son who was taken to the Zamindari Cutchery for arrears of rent. The accused No. 1 thereupon demanded a rupee from the complainant as illegal gratification. In the meantime the complainant's son returned and the complainant refused to pay anything. On this he was with the help of the other accused the former forcibly took Rs. 5 from him and then dragged him to the Sutar Thanna on the allegation that he was drunk and disorderly in a public street. The Court found the accused guilty under section 342 I. P. C. and sentenced them to pay a fine of Rs. 5 and Rs. 25 respectively.

A Fatal Jealousy Case.—On Tuesday, at the Alipore Criminal Sessions, before Mr. Harward, the Additional District and Sessions Judge one Kachimuddy Traffier, a son of a Zamindar of Cowkapara was charged with murder. It was stated that the accused had a mistress of his keeping whom one Kachimuddy Mondal, another well-to-do young man of the locality used to visit stealthily and the former getting sent off called for the latter and ordered him not to visit her again. The young man without paying any heed to this continued his visit as before and the accused being an exasperated was determined to kill his rival and was seeking an opportunity to serve his diabolical purpose and on the night of the 26th July last while Kachimuddy Mondal was asleep on an open verandah of his house on account of sickness of the night, the accused fell upon him with a sharp "dao" and hacked him into pieces. Babu Har Lal Banerjee and Chander B' Banerjee are defending the accused. The trial is proceeding.

ALLEGED POLICE ZOOLOOM.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Bishnupur, Sept. 10. Great excitement prevailed in the small town of Bishnupur on the 6th instant owing to an extraordinary incident in which some members of the local police played an important part. The facts are these:—The Hazra family of Patrasa, a village in the Bishnupur Sub-Division, is one of the old and respectable families in our district. A member of that family came to Bishnupur on the 6th instant with seven or eight men to attend some business in the local criminal court. They put up in a hotel near the Post-office. They were expecting the arrival of a person who was to join them. At about 8-30 p.m., when it was raining hard, a bullock cart was passing by the hotel. Believing that the gentleman they were expecting, was in the cart, they enquired of the driver who the occupant was. Having got no reply they repeated the question a second time, when to their astonishment, the unknown occupant replied them in an unparliamentary language. The men retorted. What followed next was most extraordinary. For, according to the story of the Hazra Babus' party the occupant of the cart, who was no less a personage than a Police official, came down apparently to give the men a good teaching then and there; but finding their number to be large, he went direct to the Thana which is about 90 yards from the spot. He returned within ten minutes accompanied by some eight constables and choudkars, and began, it is alleged, to beat the fellows with clubs. The men were taken unawares and got very much terrified and confounded. Three of them managed to enter the hotel room and to bolt the doors from inside, when, it is alleged, the door was broken open by force. The Police then went back to the Thana after arresting two of the party. All this was done in about 15 minutes and many of the neighbours were eye-witnesses of the occurrence, though none could dare interfere in the matter. After the Police had gone back to the Thana with the two accused, the rest of the party went direct to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate's residence, and represented to him their grievances; but as the weather was inclement, the officer did not find his way to afford them any protection and simply counselled them to wait till the next morning. But this piece of advice of the S. D. Officer did not give much solace to them. They then went to the Inspector of Police and related their story to him. And he it said to his credit, the Inspector, Babu Sarat Chunder Bhiduri, though he was at the time suffering from an attack of fever, did not heed his health but hastened to the Thana and held an enquiry. Apparently he was satisfied with the innocence of the persons arrested and ordered their release from police custody. He saw the marks of injury on the persons of the complainants and left no stone unturned to ascertain the truth. Being thus satisfied about the guilt of the Police officers, he challenged the second Sub-Inspector, the Howaldar, two Constables and

two Choudkars under Sections 211, 342, 352, 322 and 448, of the I. P. C. The accused have taken time to move the High Court for the transfer of the case to the Sudder.

Calcutta Gazette.—Sept. 14.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

Babu Mati Lal Roy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hazaribagh, is appointed temporarily to have charge of the Giridih sub-division of that district.

Mr. Mohammad Yusuf, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Pabna, is appointed to act, in addition to his own duties, as Additional Sessions Judge of Bankura, during a portion of the ensuing Civil Court vacation, viz., from the 31st October to the 9th November 1904.

Mr. Mohammad Yusuf, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Pabna, is appointed to act, in addition to his own duties, as Additional Sessions Judge of Faridpur, during the ensuing Civil Court vacation.

Mr. Mohammad Yusuf, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Pabna, is appointed to act, in addition to his own duties, as Additional Sessions Judge of Nadia, during the ensuing Civil Court vacation.

Mr. G. Gordon, District and Sessions Judge Saran, is appointed to act, in addition to his own duties, as Additional Sessions Judge of the ensuing Civil Court vacation, viz., from the 8th to the 14th October 1904.

Mr. H. Holmwood, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Patna, is appointed to act, in addition to his own duties, as Additional Sessions Judge of Shahabad, during a portion of the ensuing Civil Court vacation, viz., from the 15th to the 24th October 1904.

Mr. Ambica Charan Sen, District and Sessions Judge, Bankura, is appointed to act, in addition to his own duties, as Additional Sessions Judge of Hooghly, during a portion of the ensuing Civil Court vacation, viz., from the 8th to the 30th October 1904.

Mr. A. E. Harward, Officiating Additional Sessions Judge, Hooghly, is authorised, under section 193 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, to receive and dispose of all criminal applications and cases, except applications for revision under section 435 of the Code, during the absence, on vacation leave, of Kumar Gopendra Krishna Deb, from the 31st October to the 9th November 1904.

Babu Syam Lal Gupta, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Katwa, Burdwan, is appointed to have charge of the Netrakona sub-division of the Mymensingh district.

Babu Jagat Chandra Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Satkhira, Khulna, is appointed to have charge of the Chudanga sub-division of the Nadia district.

Babu Suresh Chandra Sinha, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Chuadanga, Nadia, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Jessore district.

Babu Ram Narain Banerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jessore, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the 24-Parganas district.

Babu Mahendra Nath Mukherji, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bangoan, Jessore, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Nadia district.

Babu Girindra Chunder Banerjee Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Ranchi, is appointed to have charge of the Kishorganj sub-division of the Mymensingh district.

Babu Jogendra Kumar Sinha, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Kishorganj, Mymensingh, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Ranchi district.

Mr. E. F. Ainslie, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, is appointed to have charge of the Alipur sub-division of the Jalpaiguri district.

Babu Kunja Bihari Goswami, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, is posted to the head-quarters station of the Saran district.

Mr. A. Goodeve, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Birbhum, is appointed to act, in addition to his own duties, as Additional Sessions Judge of Bhagalpur, during a portion of the ensuing Civil Court vacation, viz., from the 8th to the 25th October 1904.

Mr. W. H. H. Vincent, District and Sessions Judge, Bhagalpur, is appointed to act, in addition to his own duties, as Additional Sessions Judge of Birbhum, during a portion of the ensuing Civil Court vacation, viz., from the 26th October to the 9th November 1904.

Babu Prasanna Kumar Karfarnah, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Khulna, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Hooghly district.

Babu Ganendra Nath Pal, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector 24-Parganas, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Khulna district.

Mr. F. S. Hamilton, District and Sessions Judge, Dinajpur, is appointed to act, in addition to his own duties as Additional Sessions Judge of Rangpur, during the ensuing Civil Court vacation.

Babu Bepin Behari Pramanik, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Patna, is transferred temporarily to the head-quarters station of the Shahabad district.

Mr. C. W. E. Connolly, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is posted to the head-quarters station of the Singhbhum district, on being relieved of his appointment as Assistant Settlement Officer in the Ranchi district.

The Sub-Deputy Collectors named below are appointed substantively pro tempore to the eighth grade of Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors:—Babus Bijoy Kumar Ganguli, Debendra Nath Bose, Maulvi Syud Izzah Hossain, Babus Akhil Kumar Chatterjee, Suresh Chunder Chuckerbutty, Maulvi Abdul Aziz, Babus Sudarsan Das, Phanindra Nath Mukherji, Rajmohan Gangopadhyay, Joges Chunder Dutt and Dasrathi Datta.

Mr. W. S. Courts, substantive pro tempore Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is appointed to have charge of the Araria sub-division of the Purnea district, on being relieved of his present appointment as Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Tippera.

Babu Banku Behary Dutta, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Mymensingh, is appointed temporarily to have charge of the Tangail sub-division of that district.

Mr. R. F. Guise, District Superintendent of Police, on furlough, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Southern and Eastern Range, vice Mr. G. D. Graham, on furlough.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdus Samed, Special Sub-Registrar, Cuttack, is appointed to be Special Sub-Registrar of Balasore.

Babu Jagadananda Pattnaik, Rural Sub-Registrar of Pipili, in the district of Puri, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Special Sub-Registrar of Cuttack.

LEAVE.

In modification of the order of the 19th July 1904, Babu Monmohan Chakravarti, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hooghly, is allowed leave for thirty-one days.

Babu Prasanna Kumar Das Gupta, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Tangail, Mymensingh, is allowed leave for three months.

In modification of the order of the 17th August 1904, Mr. Syed Ahmad Nawab substantive pro tempore Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Purnea, is allowed leave for two months with effect from the 16th July 1904.

Mr. C. W. T. Feilman, Assistant Superintendent of Police, 24-Parganas, is allowed leave for one month, with effect from the 13th September 1904.

Lieutenant F. S. McNamara, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Araria, Purnea, is allowed leave for one month, with effect from the 14th September 1904, or any subsequent date on which he may avail himself of it.

The late Maulvi Muhammad Fazaloolah, Special Sub-Registrar, was on combined leave for six months, viz., privilege leave for one month and leave on private affairs for five months, with effect from the 2nd January 1904, to the time of his death on the 28th June 1904. This cancels the order of the 22nd December 1903, granting the late Maulvi Muhammad Fazaloolah privilege leave for one month.

Maulvi Aulad Hasan, Special Sub-Registrar, Dacca, is allowed leave for two months, in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 9th August 1904.

Babu Radha Madhab Naek, Special Sub-Registrar, Balasore, is allowed furlough for one year, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Babu Sasi Kumar Ghose, B.L., is appointed to act as Munsif in the district of Jessore, to be ordinarily stationed at Narail, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Shama Churn Chuckerbutty, or until further orders.

Babu Ram Lal Das, Munsif of Rangpur, is allowed leave for seven days, under article 271 of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave granted to him.

Babu Nalini Mohan Bandopadhyay, Munsif of Chikandi, in the district of Faridpur, is allowed leave for five days, under article 271 of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave granted to him.

Mr. Onil Chandra Dutt, Munsif under orders of transfer to Habiganj, in the district of Jessore, is allowed leave for six months, viz., privilege leave for three months, of which three days will be under article 274 of the Civil Service Regulations, and the remaining period under article 271 of the Regulations, and leave on medical certificate for three months under article 336 of the Regulations, with effect from the 14th May 1904, in supersession of the leave granted to him under the orders of the 26th May, 6th June and 27th July 1904.

Babu Nando Lal Dey, Subordinate Judge, Midnapore, is allowed leave on private affairs for two days, under article 337 of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave granted to him.

SUBORDINATE CIVIL SERVICE.

Babu Jatindra Mohan Chattopadhyay, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Netrakona, Mymensingh, is transferred to the head-quarters station of that district.

Babu Girindra Narain Singh, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, 24-Parganas, is transferred temporarily to the Narail sub-division of the district of Jessore.

Babu Jyotish Chandra Roy, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Narail, Jessore, is transferred temporarily to the head-quarters station of that district.

Babu Radha Krishna Goswami, Sub-Deputy Collector, is posted to the head-quarters station of the Backergunge district, and is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

Babu Ganoda Prosad Ghose, Sub-Deputy Collector, on leave, is posted to the head-quarters station of the Backergunge district, and is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

Babu Monmohan Mukherjee, Sub-Deputy Collector, Nadia, is allowed leave for three months, with effect from the 15th July 1904.

Babu Uma Charan Roy Choudhry, Sub-Deputy Collector, Khulna, is transferred to the Netrakona sub-division of the Mymensingh district.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Captain E. E. Waters, I.M.S., Officiating Civil Surgeon of Puri, is allowed privilege leave from the 1st to the 12th October 1904, both days inclusive, under article 260 of the Civil Service Regulations.

A progress report of the investigation of irrigation projects in the Madras Presidency shows that the total approximate cost of the projects investigated amounts to Rs. 28,107 lakhs, while the cost of six out of 28 of the other projects still remaining to be investigated is Rs. 93 lakhs. The Madras Government has now laid down that the limit of investigation should in future be the selection of more promising and profitable projects in each district for which Government are likely to be able to provide funds in the next thirty-years. They have applied to the Government of India to sanction the continuance of the appointment of a special Superintending Engineer, which terminates this month, for two years longer.

Mr. George H. Laffin, one of Chicago's wealthy men, who died recently, gave advice in his Will to his heirs how to keep the wealth he left them:—"I would advise all my children to be prudent in their investments, and not to purchase anything simply because it is cheap, but to remember that a long-time security, drawing a low rate of interest, is often more desirable than an investment which draws a high rate of interest. I would also advise them not to purchase any thing which they cannot pay for in full at the time of the purchase, as more men are ruined by speculation than in any other way. I also advise them not to sign any note or bond, and not to encumber any real estate, except for the purpose of improving same."

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NOTES.

LGA.

lanter is nowadays says the "Indian" rations are always to make a few baw- and sell them. Mr. ly indulging in this dini, and by all ac- able excitement in the are first chased on into the deep churs, eadiness; the hunters d then follow and lasso commences. The cows good pace, dragging the doing all they know to and bucking like Aus- when they got on land again after a really hard fight. caught during the late

STAMPS IN RANGOON POST OFFICE.

Interest to philatelists to know that a half-anna stamp, surcharged and a half-anna thirteen years ago, is now available at the Rangoon Post Office. The ordinary two and a half-anna green stamps have been out for some months past, and a few days ago the blue stamp of the same denomination also gave out. The old surcharged stamps were then unearthed from somewhere and are again used for foreign postage. As for the King's head issue in this value, they have not yet made their appearance at the Rangoon Post Office, although they have been in use in India for some time. It seems a mistake that the whole of the Queen's head issue have not been surcharged half and one anna. They would have been bought so readily by philatelists. —"Rangoon Gazette."

MINING IN CENTRAL PROVINCES.

Somewhat misleading particulars having been published in several papers concerning a copper mine at Sleeminabad on the concession granted to Mr. P. C. Dutt, barrister-at-law, of Jubbulpore, it may be as well to state the facts briefly. Mr. Dutt's concessions aggregate more than ten square miles in all and the mine at Sleeminabad was discovered in 1901 after long prospecting in search of minerals. It is situated on the open maidan within 1½ miles from Sleeminabad Road Station, and the rock through which the veins of ore run is dolomite and limestone of hard compact nature. The copper occurs as malachite and azurite for the most part, impregnated through a matrix of silica and lime, and containing silver and other metals in small quantities. Several promising results have been obtained from analyses, the last and best being as follows: 15 dwts. of gold per ton of ore; 197 ounces of silver per ton of ore; and 23 per cent copper. Messrs. Burn and Co., of Calcutta, have joined Mr. Dutt as half-share partners in the mine.

MOLESTING A LADY.

A case of very sensational nature has just been disposed of by the Joint Magistrate of Etawah, in which a Mussalman youth by name Sakharwat stood charged with molesting a "purdah nashin" Mahomedan lady. The accused has been convicted and sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment. The lady was on her way to Cawnpur and was the solitary inmate of a third class compartment. The accused managed to get into her carriage, while the train was in motion and made certain advances, which were treated with contempt. The accused grew violent and actually struck her with umbrella. He then proceeded to embrace her. A severe struggle ensued. Were it not for the fact that the shrieks of the woman reached the ears of a fellow-passenger, Lala Mathura Prasad, one of the pleaders of Etawah, who promptly interceded and offered his protection to the lady, the result might have been sad. At the next station, as the accused prepared to leave, Lala Mathura Prasad sent for the Police, who after recording the statement of the complainant took the accused into custody. He was then put on his trial with the result stated above.

SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST A SOLDIER.

A case in which Mr. R. E. Bradbury, District Superintendent of Police, charged before Mr. W. E. Clarke, Chief Presidency Magistrate, Egmore, at the instance of one Gangathara Chetty, a Gumnast employed in a liquor tavern at Teynampet, Gunner Harrison, a European soldier, of the 23rd Field Battery, St. Thomas' Mount, with assaulting the complainant and walking away with a bottle of beer and a bottle of whiskey from an almirah in the tavern, came up the other day. Mr. Bradbury conducted the prosecution and Major Calvert who was present in Court to watch the case defended the accused. It would appear that on the night of the 1st instant, the accused with five other soldiers went into the tavern and asked for beer and when they were met with a refusal they tried to open the discharge cork of the beer cask. They then took out from an almirah close by a beer bottle and a whiskey bottle. When the complainant remonstrated with the accused, he was assaulted by the latter and another whom the complainant could not identify. Venugopal, Manager, Fortune and Co., Teynampet, and a few of the European Police Officers and Gunners Harley, John Joseph Nolan, Fredrick Eggleston, and Larkin were examined. The case is proceeding.

How to Avoid the Dangers of a Cold.—Everyone must realize the dangers attending a severe cold, and that it is always prudent to remain in-doors until the danger is passed. Many, however, do not feel able to lose the time and will be interested in knowing that a severe cold may be broken up and all danger avoided by the prompt use of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It not only cures, but cures quickly and counteracts any tendency toward pneumonia. For sale by Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co., Abdoel Rahaman and Abdoel Kareem, Calcutta.

ALLEGED MUNICIPAL ZULUM.

Says a Tanjore correspondent:—Appavu Pillai, a rate-payer of this Municipality, residing in the Kurthantangudy Ward, has presented a complaint to the Head Quarter Deputy Magistrate of Tanjore against the Municipal Secretary of Tanjore, Mr. Kodanda-swamy Pillai, and some bill collectors and fellow residents in his street, alleging that they broke into his house during his absence and took therefrom property valued at Rs. 119-8-9. A warrant to distrain his property was issued to recover his house tax, and he alleges that on the 25th July last, while he was at a village in the neighbourhood, having locked up his house, the Municipal staff and the individuals whom he has accused, headed by the Municipal Secretary, entered his house by scaling the wall from a neighbouring house, broke the locks of the two rooms inside and removed therefrom not only property worth Rs. 119-8-9, but cash amounting to Rs. 62-14-0. The complainant, in the sworn statement that he subsequently made to the Deputy Magistrate, has reaffirmed his allegations and has undertaken to prove them. The case stands posted for hearing to the 12th instant.

ELEPHANT SHOOTING AT SINGAMPATTI.

A correspondent writes:—On the 26th of August, the Private Secretary at the Singampatti Palace received information that foot-prints of a huge elephant were seen in the paddy-fields of Kalahastri, three miles from the head-quarters. The information was at once communicated to the Zemindar who with the available attendants went to the place and after going a distance higher up Singampatti of about five miles met two elephants, with two young ones. The Zemindar immediately fired at the elephants with the result that one of them on receiving the shots, ran a distance of two miles and then after profuse bleeding died. It is at an inconvenient place that the party met the elephant. If the elephant had given a chase there was no place to run to and the encounter would have been attended with fatal result. The Zemindar played an admirable part in preserving the presence of mind and in firing at the animal at a very critical moment with heroic courage. A photo has been taken of the subsequent scene. The tussocks and the teeth had been taken out and preserved. This is the first instance in the annals of the Singampatti forestry, where an encounter had occurred and the Zemindar has to be congratulated on the successful result.

CEYLON'S TRADE IN RUBBER SEED.

This is the season when Para rubber seed is harvested, and our island neighbour is doing excellent business with it. Every Colony, large and small, is clamouring for it. The Straits took 148,000 seeds in one month and 52,000 more have since been despatched. Large consignments have also been shipped to Rangoon, Tuticorin, Calcutta, Saigon, Sumatra, Durban and the Seychelles, while 6,000 seeds were sent to Liverpool to the order of a former Burma resident, who intends to send it to South Africa. Mombasa, the Fiji Islands and British Guiana also going to try it, and Natal wants more. The Madras Agri-Horticultural Society ordered 9,000 seeds, but two planters bespoke practically the whole consignment before it arrived, and many others are now clamouring for some. The price of the seed is Rs. 5 per lb. in Ceylon. Para trees in bearing must be very paying just now, as many as 200,000 seeds having been gathered on some Ceylon estates; and so long as the present high prices for rubber prevail the demand for this seed is likely to continue. Professor Wyndham Dunstan, the Director of the Imperial Institute, reported that the seed was worth 25 a ton if made into a meal for cattle, and that the kernels, which contained 42 per cent. of oil, capable of being used for all purposes to which linseed oil is applied, are worth £12 a ton. The seed, if put on the market, would fetch £20 a ton. Castillea seed, which ripens some weeks earlier, is also very saleable, as much as Rs. 15 per 1,000 being paid for it in Ceylon.

PARTITION OF ANCESTRAL PROPERTY.

On the appellate side of the Bombay High Court the Hon. Sir Lawrence Jenkins, Chief Justice and the Hon. Mr. Justice Batchelor delivered judgment from a decision of the Hon. Mr. Justice Budroodin Teybi in the suit filed by Wasantao Madhwarao against Anandao Ganpatrao and others, who, in September last, dismissed the plaintiff's suit with costs. The facts of the case are that one Kashinath Vithoba died in 1901 leaving a will by which he excluded his son Madhwarao, the father of the plaintiff, and left all his property to his other son, Ganpatrao, and his heirs. Ganpatrao died during his father's life-time, leaving him surviving six sons, the defendants in the suit. Madhwarao had executed a release of all his interest in the family properties in favour of his father in consideration of the father settling his debts. The plaintiff, as son of Madhwarao, filed the present suit for the partition of family property, which was worth about five lakhs of rupees, on the ground that the release executed by his father was not binding on him. The lower Court dismissed the plaintiff's suit on the ground that it was barred by the law of limitation. Their lordships in delivering judgment held that the properties in dispute were joint ancestral properties, that the will of Kashinath was void and inoperative and the appellant, as one of the co-partners in the ancestral properties, was entitled to a partition thereof. Their lordships further held that the release executed by the appellant's father was not binding upon him, and the appellant was entitled to one-half share in the properties. Their lordships accordingly reversed the decree of the lower Court.

Nothing Like Experience.—"One truth learned by actual experience does more good than ten experiences one hears about." Tell a man that Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy will cure cholera morbus, and he will most likely forget it before the end of the day. Let him have a severe attack of that disease, feel that he is about to die, use this remedy, and earn from his own experience how quickly it gives relief, and he will remember it all his life, or sale by

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A SUB-MAGISTRATE'S CASE.

The charges brought against Mr. S. T. Swaminatha Iyer, late Sub-Magistrate of Usilampatti, who is now under suspension under Sections 219 and 220, I.P.C., were inquired into at the last Sessions by Mr. Madura, with the result that the assessors Moberly, I.C.S., District and Sessions Judge, had found the accused "not guilty" in both the charges. His Honour agreeing ordered honourable acquittal. Here are the concluding paragraphs of the judgment: "Gopalakrishna Iyer was sentenced by the Sub-Magistrate (the accused) to six months' rigorous imprisonment. The sentence may have been a heavy, and possibly a vindictive one, but theft under section 379 I.P.C. is punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and a 2nd Class Magistrate may sentence to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months. Consequently the sentence passed by the Sub-Magistrate was not contrary to law, and if not contrary to law no offence under section 219 I.P.C. could have been committed. Then the irregularities of which the Sub-Magistrate is alleged to have been guilty during the trial of the case, such as the omission to read over depositions to witnesses, the refusal to grant an adjournment, the advancement of the hearing, 18th August to 12th August, the refusal to receive a registered letter from a person unconnected with the case, the refusal to examine absent defence witnesses are not offences under section 220 I.P.C. Why the case was committed for trial I cannot understand, for the evidence given before Mr. Wallace did not justify a committal, especially as some of the witnesses had to be coached by means of the statements they have made to Mr. Young and the Deputy Magistrate. In conclusion I would express the hope that the next time a departmental enquiry as to be made into the conduct of a Sub-Magistrate, the preliminary investigation should not be treated as the departmental enquiry; and that a charge should not be framed against him until after he has been examined in his presence, and he has had an opportunity of cross-examining them."

A VIZIANAGRAM ZEMINDARY SUIT.

The District Judge of Vizianagram has disposed of a case in which the Maharajah of Vizianagram sued the Maharajah of Bobbili and certain others in respect of an irrigation channel. The facts were these. The river Bodaru, which is the subject of the litigation, takes its rise in the hills beyond Modgul, and after flowing through Modgul, enters the Zemindary of Vizianagram and irrigates certain villages comprised within that Zemindary. In or about 1838, disputes arose between the Zemindars of Vizianagram and Bobbili over the right claimed by the latter proprietor to throw a dam across the river for the purpose of diverting water to irrigate his villages. The Agent to the Governor, who then exercised jurisdiction over the Zemindaries, intervened and the dispute was settled on the following basis:—The Zemindar of Bobbili was to throw a dam across the river and take two-thirds of the water in low water, the remaining one-third being allowed to pass down the river for the benefit of the Vizianagram villages. Owing, however, to the temporary nature of the dams that used to be put up, there were frequent disputes between the proprietors. In 1855, when the Chittagada Estate was under the Court of Wards, a proposal was made to put up a "pucca" ancient with sluices to allow of a proper distribution of the water. This was done, the ancient being provided with a sluice in the middle and another sluice to the diversion channel (known as the Boddaiti) which took off water to the Bobbili Zemindary villages. The plaintiff's case was that this ancient was built in or about 1892 and that each party got their agreed share of the water-supply until 1898. In that year, the sluice in the middle of the ancient was alleged to have been blocked up by some of the officers and tenants of the defendants. Later, Mr. Gillman, I. C. S., as Collector and Manager of the Vizianagram Estate, tried to have the sluice opened, but he was resisted by the defendant's party. A criminal prosecution followed on this, but it was dismissed on the ground that the dispute was of a civil nature which should be adjudicated upon by a Civil Court. Hence the present suit, which was one for a declaration of the plaintiff's right to a one-third share of the waters of the river Bodaru and for an injunction restraining the defendants from interfering with the ancient as it was prior to 1898. His Honour delivered judgment upholding the claim put forward by the plaintiff and granted the injunction in the terms asked for.

In connection with the question of sanitary reform in India it has been decided that a post of Imperial Sanitary Commissioner shall be created forthwith, separate and independent from the Director-Generalship of the Indian Medical Service. Major Leslie, I.M.S., now Secretary to the Director-General has been appointed to the post. A resolution on the subject dealing with the policy of sanitation will be issued this week.

The society mothers of Boston (U.S.A.) have a new fad. In almost every fashionable Street, especially where the houses are divided into large flats, and have no gardens, boxes are to be seen securely fastened to the window ledges and the roofs. Escusoned in each box is a baby, who is allowed to sleep thus for hours in the open air. Over each of these nests, an awning is placed to protect the little one from sun or rain. It is hailed for the new practice, which is now widespread, that it has numerous advantages over perambulators, particularly in that it avoids the noise and dust of the streets.

Could Scarcely Walk.—Mr. G. S. Purton, a resident of Kyneton, Victoria, Australia, says: "Some time ago I was attacked with severe pains and stiffness in my legs, which affected me so that I could scarcely walk, when I was recommended to try a bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm by our local chemist, Mr. Stredwick. I have used it once a day since, and have experienced wonderful relief. I am indeed grateful for the good it has done me and shall be happy to recommend Chamberlain's Pain Balm to any one suffering from a similar complaint." For sale by

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COTTON EXPERIMENTS IN MADRAS.

MR. BARBER'S SUGGESTIONS.

In the course of a letter to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue, Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated 5th February, 1904, Mr. C. A. Barber, Government Botanist, says:—

I have the honour to forward the following notes on the subject of cotton selecting and crossing experiments in Madras. There are growing, at present, sets of exotic and indigenous varieties at Saidapet, Bellary and Kolipatti. The plants appear to have been established at these places for a couple of years and the seed was obtained from Poona in the first instance. The condition of the plots at present is not exactly suited to experiments in cross-fertilisation. In fact the plots are not uniform, showing that the seed has got mixed. It seems probable that this is largely due to the original samples from Poona not containing pure seed, for a similar difficulty has been experienced in the Bombay farms during the past year, although not to so great an extent as in Madras. This alone would invalidate crossings between the different varieties. But it is also to be noted that the Bombay ideals are not of necessity those of Madras. It is a waste of labour to cross indiscriminately indigenous and exotic plants "on the chance" of a useful result. Experiments in plant-breeding, perhaps more than in anything else, depend for their success upon a definite objective beforehand, and until our study of the local varieties and needs is sufficiently advanced we are not in a position to prepare a final scheme of inter-crossing. There is however plenty of work of a more fundamental character to be done. Pure samples of the different local varieties are needed, a set of good strong flowering plants of each variety must be raised as a foundation for future work. Crossing local varieties "inter se" may be commenced to obtain plants of increased vigour. A few crossings with exotics have been suggested for Saidapet but not for anywhere else this year. Along with these experiments in plant breeding it is felt that a fuller knowledge is desirable regarding our indigenous cottons, and extensive collections are being made with this object in view. The qualities of the lint are at present unknown to me and it is proposed to collect and examine them during the current year. To obtain really accurate ideas on the subject, the plants and their produce should be collected in their various taluqs, but at present we shall have to risk variations due to their being collected in the experimental stations and grown to a certain extent out of their true climate and soil. I have set to work at Saidapet and at Bellary and have prepared, in consultation with the Deputy Director, schemes for the current season's working. Thus far I have not been able to visit Kolipatti but hope to do so later in the season. There appears to be less urgency there as the local cotton has a long cropping season. The experiments at Saidapet are being carried on under somewhat peculiar conditions owing to the fact that the experimental plots there are not under the control of the Agricultural Department. It appears that crossing experiments were started here at the instance of the Inspector-General of Agriculture. At his request an Agricultural Inspector who had been trained in the work at Poona was placed in charge of the crossings and a detailed scheme was prepared for his guidance. This course was rather at variance with the Inspector-General's request that the crossings in Madras should be placed under the direction of the Government Botanist, but we have been greatly benefited by this somewhat informal action in that the work has received a great impetus. In B.P. No. 174, dated 22nd May, 1903, the cotton crossing experiments in Madras were placed under my charge, and as soon as I learnt that experiments were being made at Saidapet I placed myself in communication with the authorities there and visited the plots. The scheme prepared by Mr. Mollison appeared to me to be on too elaborate a scale for a commencement, and after some consultation with him and the Deputy Director of Agriculture, I drafted a more modest programme.

The main objects of this scheme were as follows:—(1) To attempt by the selection of good bolls from especially selected bushes to obtain a good stand of each variety of Madras cottons. This selection should take place year by year with the definite object of obtaining an early flowering luxuriant and fruitful plant. (2) To attempt by crossing "inter se" that is crossing between different bushes of the same variety, to obtain a stand of healthy and vigorous plants of different Madras varieties. The experiment should, like the first, be continued over a series of years. (3) To attempt to obtain likely varieties by crossing the Madras herbaceous types with the exotic varieties, Goghari and Broach Deshi. I lay great stress upon the line of work proposed in these first two experiments, as I believe it to be a surer and safer method than that adopted in the Bombay farms. This programme was approved by the Inspector-General of Agriculture and the Vice-Principal of Saidapet farm agreed to be guided by my advice in the matter of experiments and to carry out any suggestion to the letter.

Mr. Barlow also proposes that a packet of bazaar seed should be planted each year for sometime to come, and some sort of census of varieties in it be obtained "as soon as we have sufficiently studied the plants to fix the different types in our minds." At the suggestion of the Deputy Director of Agriculture and with his full approval an addition has been made to the prepared scheme at Bellary as follows:—

Certain of the introduced varieties, although perhaps of doubtful ancestry, are evidently good strong plants of the herbaceous type, so abundant and useful in Madras. Collections of seeds are to be made from these plants as they are valuable in the respect that they have been acclimatised for two years, and it is a pity to lose the results of those

The idea which some people have that chronic diarrhoea is incurable is a mistake. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy not only gives immediate relief but will effect a permanent cure. It never fails and is pleasant to take. For sale by Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co., Abdoel Rahaman and Abdoel Kareem, Calcutta.

two years' work. An attempt will be made later on to determine their correct names which after all is of less importance than the fact that they appear to be likely to be useful in this District." In conclusion, Mr. Barber says, I do not expect very great "results" from the present year's work. In our opinion, the present year's work, in the beaten track experience has to be gained before actual experiments can be conducted with the clock work regularity so necessary for success, and perhaps the main result of this season's work will be in a sense preparatory. We shall have trained our men by actual field work and we shall be prepared for the many little unlooked for hindrances which we have experienced during the present year.

THE WORLD OF SPIRITS.

DR. TALMAGE APPEARS TO MR. JOHN LOBB.

London, Aug. 5.

Mr. John Lobb, F.R.G.S., the well-known writer on religious subjects, a member of the City Corporation, and a popular preacher in Nonconformist circles, has joined the ranks of the spiritualists.

Mr. Lobb, interviewed yesterday by an "Express" representative readily stated that he was a spiritualist, and, further than this, that he was proud to be one.

"For three years," said Mr. Lobb, "I wrote continuous articles in an evening paper entitled 'A Look Round the Churches,' and occasionally I mentioned the want of a revival of spiritual religion. These paragraphs brought me invitations to visit spiritualistic meetings, and at last I went to one."

"There were present seven people, and the proceedings opened with Newman's hymn, 'Lead, kindly light.' Meanwhile the medium had fallen back to his chair into what appeared to be a deep sleep."

"Our hands were interlinked, and we had not long to wait before a bright starlike light fitted about the room, and a strident musical instrument, which was lying on the table, was taken up and carried over the heads of the sitters by spirit hands. The instrument was then passed through the ceiling, and, coming down, was taken through the flooring without breaking the ceiling or the flooring or injuring the musical instrument."

"I ventured to ask the spirit control whether spirits had the power to pass and re-pass articles through matter. Matter is no barrier to us in the spirit world," said the spirit.

"The spirit control attracted me very much as he came on the scene materialised, and appeared to be on friendly terms with my host—a Mr. Lacy."

"You have a powerful voice, Mr. King, I said to the spirit, and must have been a big man when on the earth. 'Yes, I was a big man,' was his reply and, rising from the chair, he looked well over six feet."

"I then asked him how long it was since he departed this earth-life. 'I was on your side in the time of the Georges,' was his reply."

"Shortly after this incident one of the sitters was confronted with a departed friend materialised."

"Then it was my turn, for I heard a voice saying, 'John.' I knew that voice. It was my brother's and he had been dead for twenty-eight years. Then I saw his face and talked with him. Suddenly he vanished, but not before he had said, 'God bless you!'"

"This, my first weird experience, took place at the end of last year. Since then I have every week attended a seance or a circle, and have talked face to face with many of my old friends."

"These include Dr. Talmage, whose sermons I published for a period of thirty years, and those whose Life I edited."

"Dr. Talmage greeted me with these words:—'John, I am glad to see you again, and to know you are carrying on the good work.'"

"On one occasion I saw my mother, and asked her to tell me something of the great world beyond."

"She said that those who when on earth had led good lives entered immediately into a new world of everlasting peace and joy, but those who had sinned entered into purgatory."

"Another man whom I knew very well when he was alive was a well-known publisher who owed me about £100 when he died. I saw and talked to him the other day, and the fact that he owed me money seemed to worry him."

"We are good friends, are we not, John?" he asked.

"Of course we are," was my reply, as I shook him by the hand."

Mr. Lobb then said that Christians cannot ignore the fact that the Scriptures are clear and definite on the possibility of personal contact with disembodied spirits materialised.

"Moses and Elijah, after an absence of centuries, returned to this earth and talked," he said.

"Then we have the cases of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, Joshua, Gideon, and Elijah. They were seen and heard by the shepherds on the Plain of Bethlehem."

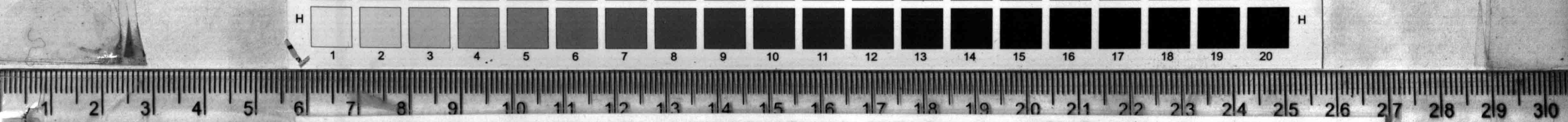
"It is the Christian spirit which must be infused into the present religious life of the people. We are already living in the spiritual world of the myriads who have left this planet. All of them are alive awake and active. Clairvoyant eyes can see them. Clairaudient ears can hear them."

"During the past few months," continued Mr. Lobb, "I have been closely engaged in investigating these matters, and I have talked freely with spirits on the subject."

"No Doctors to Treat Me"

"In my distant village home, and the consequence is, that the baneful effects of Malaria, have reduced my health to the present state. I am shattered, weak, pale, emaciated and uncared for in my own home."—Complaints of above nature come to us every now and then and we would advise the complainants to use our PANCHATIKTA BATHKA, the infallible specific for Malarial and other periodical fevers which will do away with the necessity of calling a doctor and will cure him thoroughly at a nominal charge.

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FAMINE PREPARATIONS.

GOVERNMENT MEASURES OF RELIEF.

The following resolution has just been issued by the Government of Bombay showing the preparations which have been made in the various affected districts of the Presidency in case of famine:—

As regards subordinate civil establishments Government observe with satisfaction that the Collectors of Ahmedabad, Kaira, Sholapur and Bijapur have a sufficient number of suitable men available for employment if the need arises. They should be requested to prepare and keep ready for immediate use, if required, a scheme of appointments to be carried out on the commencement of famine relief operations. The Collector of Dharwar should be requested to prepare a similar scheme from his lists and from such further information as he may find it necessary to call for, and have it ready for immediate use in case the late rains fail in the three talukas mentioned in paragraph 1 of his report.

In the case of all five districts it appears that the Executive Engineers are not prepared with lists of additional men for employment in the upper and lower subordinate grades of the Public Works Department in case of famine being declared. They should be requested to prepare such lists at once, and to keep ready a scheme of appointments such as is referred to in paragraph 1.

Arrangements should in like manner be made for the appointment of subordinate medical officers immediately on their employment becoming necessary.

The various branches of the superior staff in each district will be strengthened according to requirements as the situation develops.

In all districts except Dharwar the provision of tools is reported to be adequate for the commencement of operations. Arrangements should be made beforehand for the issue of the tools required for any test works that it may be necessary to open, for the replenishing of the stock if unfortunately the opening of test works has to be extended and their conversion into regular relief works undertaken, and in anticipation of the latter contingency arrangements should be made for obtaining, directly they are required, necessary supplies of hutting and other materials.

The action reported in paragraph 4 of the letter from the Collector of Ahmedabad is approved. Similar action should be taken in other threatened districts, the sub-divisional officers being required to proceed at once on rapid tours through their charges. The test works to be opened in case of necessity should be selected, the sites of works and of camps (if any) should be chosen with due regard to the water-supply available, and adequate supplies of tools, stationery, forms, and all materials required for the equipment of the works should be held in readiness for immediate use, together with the establishments under the schemes to be prepared in accordance with paragraph 1.

The Provisional Famine Relief Code will be issued shortly, and operations, if they become necessary, should be conducted in accordance with its provisions.

These orders should be communicated to all Collectors, and those who have been requested to report on their districts and have not yet done so, should be requested to expedite their reports.

The Collector of the Ahmedabad in paragraph 4 of the letter referred to above states:—Mamlatdars and Mahalkaris have been ordered to tour actively in their charges and embody the result of their observation in their letters to me every alternate day. Circle Inspectors are being made to tour actively in their Circles. I have warned my Assistants that if rain continues to hold off, they will be required to proceed early next month to their talukas and report on the situation in detail. I have arranged in consultation with the Executive Engineer, Gujarat Irrigation, to open six test works when the necessity arises. These works are, I understand, such as have been sanctioned to be undertaken from ordinary assignments and will prove useful if carried to completion. They are all tank works and one work for each taluka has been chosen.

I have inquired of the Executive Engineer and he informs me that ample tools are available—tools for 50,000 diggers; baskets for carriers could quickly be increased locally—the present number available being about 5,000. The Executive Engineer, Gujarat Irrigation, informs me that tools could quickly be obtained from Poona to meet requirements for test works.

The Collector of Sholapur states that in case of relief being needed, suitable men to supervise can be obtained without difficulty from this and other allied departments as in the past, that the Public Works Department have a full stock of tools, and that other preparations are generally in readiness.

The Collector of Kaira states:—Our preparations should be sufficiently advanced by the middle to the end of October, for a third work to be opened in each taluka (two more in Borsad), if necessary. And after another month we should be ready with yet another string for each Taluka, if necessary.

The Collector of Dharwar states:—So far the season has been very favourable except in Gadag, Navalgund and Ron and there is no cause for apprehension as regards even those talukas; they depend chiefly on the late rainfall.

LHASA—AND AFTER?

(The Echo.)

The British invading army lies camped by the walls of Lhasa, the mysterious sacred capital of Bhuddism. The inhabitants hardly pause in their daily tasks to look over their shoulders at the terrible foreigners who have forced their way across the mountain barriers. The baker kneads his dough, and the women continue their weaving. In the letter of one Correspondent we can detect a touch of pique that "the presence of English political officers in gold-lace uniform" should be treated with as much indifference "as if it were an every-day event." These facts need not surprise us. They are the natural outcome of the policy of "passive resistance" which the Tibetans have adopted. From the very beginning they have used no force to resist this unwarrantable act of aggression. They have been peaceful neighbours. Their only crime is that they have asked to be let alone and that they have refused to enter

into any negotiations with the world across their frontier. They maintained no army, for they cherished no aggressive aims themselves. Their policy at Lhasa is the same as it has been at the various stages of the advance: passive resistance.

What did our Government expect? Did they hope that the populace would fall upon the necks of the soldiers who have already slaughtered hundreds of their unoffending kinsmen? If the Tibetans had maintained even the semblance of an army we may be sure that the welcome would have been of a different sort. But let us not mistake this mask of apathy for the real features. The isolation of Tibet was not a capricious whim, but a deliberate policy tenaciously held. It will not be surrendered lightly. By our arbitrary methods we shall inevitably transform the race of peaceful shepherds into trained fighting men animated by a spirit of relentless hate towards the despoilers of their country. Instead of strengthening our frontier, we have created fresh dangers and fresh responsibilities. If ever there was a predisposition on the part of the Tibetans to listen to Russian overtures it will be intensified a hundred times now.

But what is the objective of the British army of occupation now that it has arrived at Lhasa? It cannot simply be a kind of conducted tour to see the gilded domes of the monasteries. Parliament has been vouchsafed no explanation. We are told vaguely that a treaty is to be signed, but that means nothing unless we know what the conditions of the treaty are to be. Our last treaty was scrupulously observed by the Tibetans and broken only by ourselves. Up to March 31st last the expedition had cost over £300,000, and since then the bill has been running up £50,000 a month. Parliament and the nation are very much in the position of the inquiring "little Peterkin" while the Government appears to be as much in the dark as "Old Kaspar."

But what they killed each other for

I could not well make out,

But everybody said, 'twas he,

That 'twas a famous victory.

There is this difference in the present case—that the killing has been all on one side, and the "victory" is never likely to be famous. Colonel Youngblood has made a demand for an indemnity to cover the cost of the expedition. But this hardly seems an adequate reason for his going there in the first place, and now that he has gone, the demand seems as reasonable as would be the request of a burglar for a contribution towards the cost of his housebreaking outfit. If such a demand is pressed, "ransom" or "blackmail" is the name for it, and not "indemnity." It is a policy worthy of a Moroccan bandit, but not of the British Empire. Mr. Brodriek has issued an order forbidding private looting and pillage, the spoils of which, we are told, are already appearing in Darjeeling drawing-rooms. But what is this "indemnity" but loot on a larger scale?

HAND-LOOM WEAVING IN INDIA.

Mr. E. B. Havell, Principal of the Government School of Art, Calcutta, writes as follows to the "Pioneer":—

Since writing to you in June last on the subject of hand-loom weaving in India and Sir George Watt's contention that it was practically a dead industry, I have received important evidence in support of my views as to the possibilities still open to the millions of Indian hand-loom weavers. A weaving expert in a Calcutta mercantile firm writes to draw my attention to a great revival of hand-loom weaving in Ireland brought about by a few simple improvements in the looms introduced by Mr. William Walker, now Chairman of the Congested Districts Board. He adds that, having been trained in modern mills, he, like Sir George Watt, was under the impression that the hand-loom was doomed, and that he was astonished when he saw the extent of the industry developed by Mr. Walker. In the current number of the Journal of the Society of Arts, Colonel Sir Richard Temple, late Chief Commissioner of the Andamans, writes to controvert the statement made by Mr. Coombes, another weaving expert, who from his experience of the latest English hand-loom, called "domestic," in the Madras School of Art, had declared that it was unsuitable for India. Sir R. Temple says:—"Our experience in a factory conducted on a scale probably not tried elsewhere—the women weave annually all the clothing required for 10,000 convicts—was that one woman on a domestic loom could weave as much cloth at least in a given time, as three women on hand-loom, and that too of an incomparably superior and uniform quality. We found also that the women took very readily to the new loom. There were difficulties, of course, but these did not last long. . . . indeed so favourably was I impressed with the experiment with the domestic looms that I reported strongly in its favour to the Government of India, and had I remained in India I should have taken up the domestic loom as a machine likely to be of general use in the country for home industries. But I now perceive that I should have met with expert opposition from a quarter where I should not have looked for it." The "foot-loom" referred to by Sir R. Temple is the same hand-loom (excuse the Irishism) which I described in my former letter as having been used with great success in Cairo, by unskilled Arab labour. The Andamans experiment entirely bears out my contention that with proper hand apparatus the Indian weaver can increase his output four or five times, for the loom formerly used in the Andamans which was superseded by the "domestic" loom was already very much superior to the ordinary native loom.

In all the discussion on technical education which has taken place in the last 20 years the supreme importance of this question for the industrial development of India has never been recognised. The total yearly imports into India of textiles, representing trade taken away from Indian hand-loom weavers, amount to over £20,000,000 in value. The total value of the rest of the manufactured imports, spread over perhaps twenty or more different industries, is seven or eight millions, or say, an average of half a million for each industry. For the successful introduction of most of these industries a considerable capital is necessary, and expert experiences which can be gained only with the greatest difficulty. A small hand-

loom factory, like that at Cairo, can be started with, say, Rs. 10,000 and all the expert knowledge could be easily obtained in one or two years in a European technical school. In spite of these patent facts all the discussion regarding technical education has centred round projects for establishing glass, match, or aluminium factories, which are of quite insignificant importance to India. There is, however, I am glad to say, at last a prospect that Bengal will soon have a thoroughly equipped Government weaving school, which will afford both individual weavers and small native capitalists the opportunities they require, and may be the starting point of the industrial regeneration of India.

Some few remaining Local Governments and Provinces, for the week ending the 3rd have still to send in their views on the Police Commission's Report.

The number of regimental teams competing in the Durand Football Tournament at Simla will be ten, as the Somersetshire Light Infantry at Peshawar have cancelled their entry.

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Printed and published by T.K. Biswas,
at Anando Chandro Chatterjee's Lane, and
managed by the Patrika Press Office Calcutta.

